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TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 1995

MPs rule out chance of Diana being Queen after admitting marriage is over Bitter Princess seals her fate

COLIN BROWN JAMES CUSICK and MARIANNE MACDONALD

Pressure grew at Westminster last night for the Prince and Princess of Wales to agree an early divorce to avoid further damage to the monarchy in the wake of last night's BBC to have been one of the most-viewed Panorama interview by Princess

Conservative MPs, including ministers, last night said that the Prime Minister's assurance that the Princess of Wales could become Queen was no longer tenable after her acceptance in the interview that the marriage was over.

The controversial interview was broadcast following an unprecedented security operation at BBC Television Centre, in west London. with only a bandful of senior executive aware of its contents.

Such was the secrecy surround-ing the project that three former Royal Marines were detailed to guard the door of the G3 studio in White City where the programme's titles and credits were being added. At the end of last week the studio, which is nor-mally open to all BBC staff, was

swept for bugging equipment in a bid to bead off possible leaks - although in the event the only leaks of the content of the interview appear to have come from the Princess

Prince Charles, who watched the programme at his home, Highgrove, in Gloucestershire, had earlier flown to Kensington Palace, although Buckingham Palace said he had not met his estranged wife. The palace said he had landed at the Princess's home because there was not space for everyone to land on the lawn at Buckingham Palace where the Oueen gave a 60th-birthday lunch for King Hussein of Jordan.

As the impact of the Panorama interview began to sink in, senior

Their contempt for the Princess: the future King. The Prime Minis-"Divorce; make her a Duchess and ter told MPs three years ago; "There let her go to California, If you take the joh you have to take the package, said one source cluse in the Conservative Party

leadership. The interview, which is thought

is no reason why the Princess of Wales should not be crowned queen in due course.'

A former Tory whip said: "The idea the Princess of Wales can be Queen is barmy. And the idea that the Prince of Wales can go to Westminster Abbey for the Coronation



Charles and Camilla: Their relationship could stop him being king

BBC, appears to have hardened with [Camilla] Parker-Bowles while views against her at Westminster. the Princess turns up in a carriage There is widespread scepticism over with one of her men friends is the assurances given by the Prime Minister when he announced to the Commons on 10 December 1992 that Prince Charles and the Princess were separating after 11 years of

There was total disbelief at the prospect of the Princess becoming

Toby Jessel, a Tory member of the Commons select committee on national heritage, said: "I think divorce should take place. Whether we wait 12 months or two years is a matter of judgement. It should take place in the reasonably near future. Pubackbenchers were outspoken in Queen, if she remains separated from lic opinion has now broadly accepted

The divorce was the main topic of gossip around the corridors and bars at Westminster hut views were di-vided over whether Charles should remain heir, or whether it should pass straight to Prince William. A former minister said: "Yes, there will be a divorce but it means that Charles is

Constitutional experts said the Princess's decision to go ahead with he interview without consulting the Queen could lead to a full-scale constitutional clash. Dr John Barnes, a reader in government history at the London School of Economics, believes that the way in which the authority of the Queen was ignored has brought the prospect of a republican

United Kingdom nearer.

"Quite simply, Diana is stating,
"I'm no longer playing the game the
firm's way, And I'm not going to tell
the firm what I'm doing," "he said, adding that this amounted to "the end of the Princess of Wales playing by even the minimum of royal

Most MPs appear to hope that the Queen will withstand the controversy. Many reported that support for her, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Princess Royal remains high, in spite of a collapse of support in their constituencies for the rest of the Royal Family. Some Labour MPs believe the controversy should put the future of the Royal Family back on the political agenda. Denis McShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham, called for a referendum on the Mnnarchy. He said it should be turned into a

Michael Brown, a Tory backbencher, said: "I don't think if they were divorced it would be end of the world. Most of my constituents are saying it is terrible situation and it is prohably sensible to end it."



S fights to save Bosnia peace talks

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

The Balkan peace talks went into a nail-biting extra time yesterday, as negotiators struggled to resolve crucial territorial issues still blocking an overall settlement to the 43month Bosnian civil war, the bloodiest and most destructive European conflict in half a

century.

As the diplomatic world held its breath, US officials put off to an unspecified time an ear-lier deadline of a 10am EST (3pm GMT) "event" that would have been either a ceremony to initial a comprehensive peace treaty, or an announcement that the talks that began 20 days ago at a Midwestern air force base had failed.

As the bours slipped by, the omens fluctuated wildly. A session which was to wrap

West jury sent to hotel

The jury in the Rosemary West

murder trial were sent to a ho-

tel last night after failing to

Mortgage lending in October has crashed to the lowest level since 1979. Page 2

Poland's new president hailed

his young followers as "our realist hope" Page 12

Poland's 'great hope'

reach verdicts.

since 1979.

Housing gloom

things up on Sunday evening continued until 5.30am yesterday, amid alternating predictions of imminent agreement and irretrievable deadlock.

After a five hour break, the discussions resumed, but with no word by early afternoon of when the "event" was to take At the secluded complex at

the Wright-Patterson US Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where the multi-cornered negotiations were taking place, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, was shuttling between the delegations headed by Presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Alija Izethegovic of Bosnia, seeking to hridge outstanding differ-ences. Waiting in the wings was President Franjo Tudiman of Croatia who arrived yesterday from Zagreb, predicting that a deal would be struck.

£11bn takeover fear

Major goes off roads

Labour attacks BSkyB

takeover bid.



police a settlement, was said to be ready to participate in per-



Presidents Milosevic (left) and Izetbegovic: Struggle to settle their last remaining differences

In Washington, President Bill Clinton, who has promised McCurry. In New York, the UN 20,000 US troops to help Nato Security Council was poised tn son, "if that would help them get an agreement", according to the

At midmorning, Nick Burns. the State Department spokesman whn repeatedly stressed Washington's determination

"event" would take place in the afternoon. But Balkan officials indicated that proceedings might continue for the rest of White House spokesman, Mike the day, amid some predictions that the bargaining would yield nnly a partial agreement, covlift economic sanctions imposed ering constitutional issues, leavin 1992 against the Serbian rump of former Yugoslavia, in ing the thorniest territorial problems to a later date.

According to officials, two territorial disputes had caused the 11th hour hold-up: the cor-This would be a disappointment for the Americans, whose relentless efforts to broker a setridor to link Saraievo with tlement have been mainly responsible for this best, and Gorazde, the last remaining Muslim enclave in Eastern perhaps last, chance of a nego-Bosnia, and another in the tiated end to the war, thrugh north of the country, to link less of a blow than the outright Serb territory in western and eastern Bosnia, and which the collapse of the talks at Dayton, or a cosmetic and bogus over-Serbs insist must be widened. all agreement that could quick

ly fall apart. A peace settlement would divide Bosnia into two separate "entities," controlled by the that the talks must end yester-Croat-Muslim federation and day come what may, insisted the the Bosnian Serb on a roughly 51-49 basis, and linked by

weak central government.
The Muslim-led government is adamant that the outcome must not be partition by another name, nr a solution that permits the Bosnian Serb portion to secede and unite with Serbia

Further reports, page 11

Blair's local authority has worst schools

Cable & Wireless is bracing it-JUDATH JUDD self for a possible £11hn and FRAN ABRAMS

The worst education authority A decisive shift away from pubin England is Islington, where Tony Blair, the Labour leader, lic funding of the £1.8bn roads lives, according to the Governprogramme was confirmed by ment's fourth annual league table published today. Mr Blair sends his son out of the borough, where only 17.4 per cent Labour last night called on the of pupils get five or more GCSE Government to refer Rupert passes at A-C, to a grant-main-

state comprehensive is the

Murdoch's BSkyB, to the Mo-nopolies and Mergers Comtained school in Hammersmith and Fulham. mission. The best authority is Kingston upon Thames, where Today's weather the figure for good GCSE pass-Wet across much of the UK to start, es was 55.5 per cent. The top but drier and brighter weather

The top comprehensives

(Percentage of pupils getting five or more GCSEs at grades A-C)

1 Liverpool Blue Coat School (98%)

2= Old Swinford Hospital School, Dudley (92%)

The Coopers' Company and Coborn, Havering (92%)

4 Hertfordshire and Essex High, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (90%)

5 Wetford Grammar School for Girls, Hertfordshire (87%)

6= Watford Grammar School for Boys, Hertfordshire (86%)

Dame Alice Owen's, Potters Bat, Hertfordshire (86%)

8 The King's School, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (84%)

Liverpool Blue Coat School, where 98 per cent of pupils got five or more good passes. At the worst three comprehensives no pupil got five A-C passes. The average was 43.5 per cent. The best state school is King Edward VI grant-maintained

grammar school in Chelmsford, Essex, where the average A-level score was equivalent to just over three A grades. The fee-paying King Edward VI School for Girls in Birmingham is top overall with an average Alevel score of two As and two Bs.

The state school with the biggest improvement is Saint Francis Xavier, in Richmond, North Yorkshire, where the percentage of pupils getting five or more A-C grades at GCSE rose from 29 per cent last year to 61 per cent. The independent school with the biggest improvement was Trinity School, Teignmouth, in Devon, where the proportion of pupils getting five or more A-C grades

rose from 31 per cent to 71. Lord Henley, the Schools Minister, said that in the battle to raise standards, "these tables represent a fourth consecutive

Schools grow apart, page 5

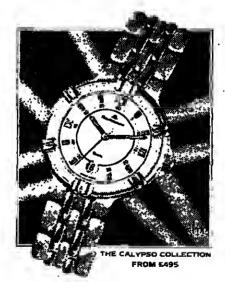
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Major clears path for Budget tax cuts

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

A decisive shift away from public funding of the £1.8hn roads programme was confirmed by John Major last night in a clear pre-Budget warning that further shrinking of the state was needed to make way for tax cuts.

The Prime Minister used his speech to the Lord Mayor's Banquet last night to reassert his commitment- eight days before the Budget-not only to lower taxes but to bringing public

Chief Political Correspondent

The Government mounted a

fresh attempt to encourage

Sinn Fein to enter the peace

refusal of the IRA to move on

the decommissioning of its

to revive the peace process.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, by John Major setting

oul plans for a twin-track strat-

egy involving the creation of an

international commission to

oversee decommissioning, and

preparatory talks with the par-

ties, leading to possible all-

party talks by next February.

Northern Ireland, in Washing-

ton for progress to be made on

decommissioning before Sinn

international commission.

ficulty on the telephone with Mr

Major today, but it could delay

Mr Major is sticking to the re-

income to below 40 per cent. It is currently 42 per cent

And he identified a first tranche of £400m in private funding for four road schemes as a key example of contracts worth more than £5bn signed under the Treasury's Private Finance tnitiative (PFI) - which he said "will play an increasing part in capital investment in the

Spending ministers have been rned by William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, throughout the current spending round that they face deep cuts in capital programmes unfunding. The roads programme is widely reported through Whitehall to have taken one of the severest cuts.

Echoing more strongly worded calls for lower public spend-ing by Mr Waldegrave and Christopher Patten, the former party chairman, Mr Major said that while the United Kingdom's public spending's share of national income was 10 per cent below the European average, "we cannot afford to compare ourselves with our European

neighbours alone". He added: "Both America and Japan spend less and tax less than we do." Mr Major told his City audi-

or takes responsibility and bears the risk, it is more efficient than the public sector". And be went on to announce Roadlink's winning bid to build and operate the upgraded A69 between Newcastle and Carlisle. The other three in the first £400m programme are the A1(M) from Alconbury to Peterborough, the AI/M1 link in York-shire and the A419/417 Swindon to Gloucester route. Stephen Dorrell, the Secre-tary of State for Health, will today outline his plans for the first four of twenty-five PFI projects worth up to £25m, but will stress that private funding will apply to capital programmes only and not to clinical provi-

sion by doctors and nurses. The Prime Minister last night repeated earlier warnings that economic monetary union (EMU) would divide the European Union between those "countries which adopted the single currency and those which

did not". He added that while "in some areas of policy" such variable geometry "may be sen-sible, indeed, inevitable" it had to be "thought through".

He said the implications included how a single currency would co-exist with present ones, how EU institutions would serve those outside as well as those inside EMU; and what it would mean for the communi-

ty budget and the single market. The Prime Minister conspic-nously did not - as some right wing Tories both inside and outside the Government would

David Trimble, the Ulster

Unionist leader, bas virtually

Gerry Adams and Martin

McGuinness, the Sinn Fein

leaders. He said they were "not

fit" to sit down with at the ne-

dent, he did not rule out join-

ing the talks process. But if they

proceed to all-party talks, it is hard to see how he will agree

to be in the same room as Mr

Adams and Mr McGuinness.

Mr Trimble said the speech

by the Irish Prime Minister,

John Bruton, amounted to a "a

blunt demand to drop the de-

commissioning requirement"

for the IRA to give up weapons

before Sinn Fein could join all-

party inclusive talks. "That is

way? "Not after all he has said

So he was confident Mr Ma-

jor would not cave in? "I don't

want to use that sort of lan-

guage. He knows what our po-

sition is. It's rather difficult to

and done on this issue."

Would John Major give

view of their record.

ruled out face-to-face talks with

bership of EMU during the life-

Trimble rules

out talks with

Sinn Fein

time of the next parliament.
Instead his emphasis on the importance of the issues EMU
would raise for countries outside as well as inside it chimed closely with his warning last week that he was not going to "surrender influence" on such issues by ruling out monetary union. He repeated that some were "passionate about EMU; "others have profound doubts. Britain, I am glad to say, bas a choice. We can decide whether

IN BRIEF

An Irish boxer disabled for life in the Kegworth air disaster was awarded record damages of £1,425,000 in the High Count

yesterday. Stephen McCoy, 23, a former top amateur middleweight box er in Northern Ireland, was 16 when the Boeing 737 London to Belfast shuttle crashed on the M1 in Leicestershire in 1989 He was left brain damaged and partly paralysed by the crash which claimed 47 lives and is looked after by his family.

The damages are to be paid by the airline British Midland and the engine manufacturers and suppliers, who admitted

Railtrack pressure

Labour last night called on the rail regulator, John Swift QC, to investigate its charge that Railtrack has put aside £1bnor taxpayers' money to boost profits after privatisation. Bri an Wilson, the party's transport spokesman, has already de-manded a Stock Exchange inquiry into Railtrack's accounts

Howard right

A decision by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, todalay a parole hearing for life.

Joseph Martin was upheld by a High Court Judge as "reason able and lawful". The 62-year old double killer, who has served 30 years, can expect to spend at least another two years and possibly right up to retirement age - in custody.

Quiet victory

More than half of Britain came to a balt to observe this Armistice Day two-minute si-lence, it was disclosed after an opinion poll found that 57 per cent of people questioned ob-served the silence. The Royal British Legion described the re-

It's obvious that the repub-

has got to look forward to No-

"Resorting to short-lerm panic pressure from Sinn Fein. SDLP or whatever, is not in his interests and I think his advisers are sensible enough to re-

see how such a U-turn could be justified. In any event, such a Uturn would be ineffective, because talks without our presence would be a meaningless exercise. We would have to be satisfied in our own terms that the circumstances were right for talks."

The underlying message that the Ulster Unionists are Martin McGuinness and willing to go along with the Ma-jor initiative, albeit reluctantly. Gerry Adams are the Karadzic and Mladic of Northern Ire-Mr Trimble, who was given 15 land. They are not regarded as minutes with Bill Clinton at the fit persons to sit at the table in White House recently, does "I don't envisage a situation not believe the US President's of personal contact with those visit at the end of the month will gentlemen. It is possible if circontribute much to the peace

process. cumstances were right, there "In a general sense, the Clinmight be a talks process. But I ton visit will be helpful bedon't see that in the short term. cause he is bringing a large entourage of officials and busi-It is for that reason we have emphasised the advantage of gonessmen. They are all going to ing down the route of creating an elected body at which there discover the degree of normalcould be the beginnings of a de-bate," Mr Trimble said. ity, that the worst affected areas of Belfast are a darned sight Despite his tough talking in an interview for the Indepenbetter than typical American in-

ner city areas That is going to be useful in changing the perception. Apart from that, I don't have any great expectation from the visit."

licans think Mr Clinton is their special factor who is going to make the British government change its policy, but we'll see."
Mr Trimble added: "It's not

in Clinloo's interests to pressurise some sort of artificial political development because he what it boils down to. That is not vember 1996 polling day.

He has got to say, "Are my actions going to look good a year from now?

sponse as "outstanding". Double strike

Fire crews on Merseyside have announced two new 24 hour strikes, two hours apart, starting on Friday and Saturday, over fire authority plans to axe 20 jobs and alter shift patterns to bridge a £700,000 budget shortfall. Army and RAF crews will be drafted in to provide cover.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Historic Newspapers, telephone 0988 402455.

Peace in Ireland: Fresh move by Downing Street aims to build confidence but Unionist leader takes hard line Tories pledge to review role of RUC the hopes of an early summit between them until after the visby Bill Clinton, the US President, on 28 November. The British are keen for an early summit meeting, hut the Irish - having aborted a summit

process talks by promising the most fundamental review of in September - want to reach the Royal Ulster Constabulary agreement behind the scenes on so far carried out. the decommissioning issue Coming days after the early before a high-profile meeting release of more than 80 IRA between the two leaders. The thinking in Irish circles and loyalist paramilitaries, it was seen as another confidenceis that we want a formula that building measure to get Sinn can get us over this problem. If Fein to compromise over the the remit doesn't include Wash-

to this problem at a later date," Disarming the IRA last night said one Irisb source. There are things that will be threatened to produce fresh difficult for everyone but it can troubles in the attempts by the be overcome with courage an Irish and British governments imagination. We are prepared The Irish government was un-happy with the letter sent to to do that," a senior government

ington Three, there is a danger

that we will have to come back

The prospects for agreement may have been enhanced by the announcement of the review of the RUC. A White Paper on the relationships between the Secretary of State, police authority and the RUC Chief Constable will also be published before Christmas.

Sinn Fein has been demandquirement set out by Sir Patrick ing radical reforms to the RUC, Maybew, Secretary of State for including the change of its name, lo drop "Royal" from its litle. Officials at the Northern Ireland Office are hoping Fein can enter the all-party to have the policing review talks. But Mr Bruton is supcompleted by next summer. The security minister, Sir ing for that pre-condition, John Wheeler, said the aim of

known as "Washington Three", the While Paper and the review to be considered by the was to strengthen the police service as the demands changed to Last night, Downing Street a peacetime scenario and to make it acceptable to the made it clear the Irish request was unacceptable. Mr Brulon community it serves. will be seeking to resolve the dif-

Sir John added: "No area will be excluded. It will be pretty

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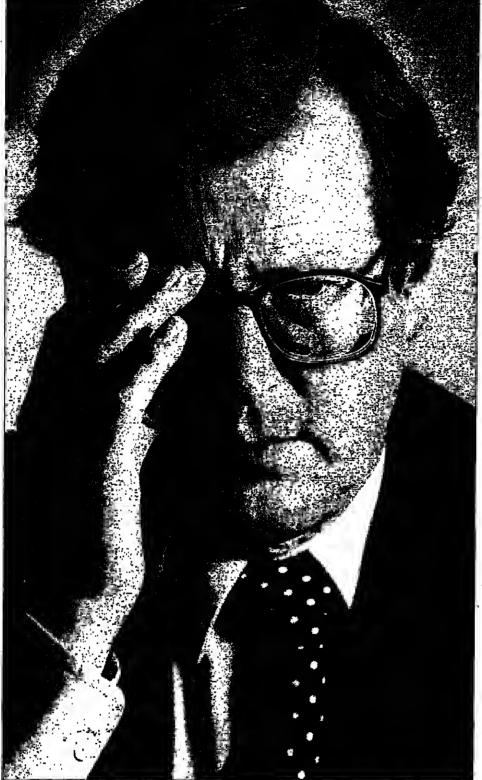
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Trimble: 'Adams and McGuinness are the Karadzic and Mladic of Ulster' Photograph: Philip Meech

Rosemary West trial: Jury spends night in hotel after five hours weighing evidence Tension rises as verdict is delayed

realistic politics.'

The jury in the Rosemary West murder trial was sent to a hotel last night after failing to reach verdicts during nearly five hours of deliberations. They will resume their discus-

sions this morning.
The seven men and four women were sent out at 11.44am yesterday by Mr Justice Mantell, who lold them to take their time. The judge finished his summing up, which had lasted more than two days, by telling jurors that they must consider whether Mrs West had ever told lies.

In particular, they must consider what she had said about Caroline Owens who was sexually assaulted by Mrs West and her husband Frederick, and Lynda Gough and Heather West, whose remains were found at the Wests' home.

women whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at the Wests previous home in the city. Mr West who was charged with 12 murders was found hanged in his prison cell last New Year's Day.

The judge said: "Of course whether in any particular incidents Rosemary West bas told lies is for you to say. She has not admitted telling any lies, but suppose you were to find that she bad. The mere fact that a defendant has told a lie is not in itself evidence of guitt. A defendant may lie for many reasons." He said if the jury thought that there was an innocent reason for the lie they should dis-regard it, but if it was for another reason such as to mislead an investigation "then the

lie may be evidence of guilt".

He went on: "You could come to the conclusion that Rosemary West lied about hearing from Heather [the Wests' daughter]. Suppose you came to



Fate in balance: A drawing of

the conclusion that Rosemar West was telling Mrs Gough [Lynda's mother] lies about Lyoda baving gone to Weston-super-Mare. Suppose you were to find that it was a lie that Mrs Gough had never been to 25 Cromwell Street. Rosemary West told you that she had tried and tried to remember

she had the newspaper report [of the Wests' prosecution] and had kept it all those years.

"Suppose you came to the conclusion that she had told you a lie about that, and came to the conclusion that there was no innocent explanation, then once again you have to consider whether that is evidence supporting the prosecution."

The judge said that the evi-dence of Mrs Owens, Anne Marie Davis, Mrs West's stepdaughter, and a woman referred to only as Miss A, who were all sexually assaulted by the

Wests, was important. "In relation to all three of them, you have been told by the witnesses about the use of restraints, gags, tape, force and sexual abuse. The Crown say that in the case of seven of the charges you have to consider that that evidence is capable of illuminating the circumstances

only available to you if you accept the evidence of these witnesses, not otherwise."

The judge said that in relation to Charmaine West the daughler of Mr West's first wife, the prosecution case was that Mr West had been in prison at the time of ber death leaving Rosemary West in sole charge.

He said that in the case of Shirley Robinson, a lodger whose remains were found at Cromwell Street, the prosecution case depended on antipathy, motive and the evidence that Mrs West was in the bouse when she met ber death. It was also alleged that the Wests had

lied about her disappearance. "So far as Heather is concerned antipathy, opportunity and once again lies," said the judge. But be warned that they should not "pass moral judge-

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dering 10 girls and young which must bave preceded in the Wests' household. Mortgage lending is lowest since 1979

NIC CICUTTI

Fresh evidence of the stump in the housing market emerged yesterday, with figures showing that new mortgage lending in October fell to the lowest level since the Torics came to of-

Net advances by building societies to home-buyers fell to £295m last month, less than half the £614m lent in September. The societies' figures came amid signs that the construction industry is heading into a fresh recession. Orders dropped by

1.4 per cent in the third quarter of 1995 compared to the previous three months. They were 3.1 per cent down on the same quarter last year.

Rob Thomas, a housing analyst at the Swiss banking group UBS, said: "These figures are gloomy. The market this year has not been good, but this is the worst so far.

Other experts suggested the rapid collapse followed two months in which lending only remained at that already low level because prospective borrowers moved swiftly to avoid

the Government's mortgage

benefit cuts in October.

The Building Societies Association said yesterday that gross lending, which includes people re-mortgaging their homes, fell slightly to £2.6bn in October, compared to £2.72bn the previous month. Net new commitments, the amount societies have agreed to lend in principle, grew to almost £2.9bn from £2.56bn.

Separate statistics from the British Bankers Association showed loans secured on property stood at £509m in October, with the corresponding period

more than £100m down on the two previous months.

search at the BSA, said yesterday: "Over recent months total lending activity has remained fairly steady compared with previous year levels. However, a significant proportion of over-all lending business is believed to have represented re-mortgage activity, rather than lending related to house purchase. The number of loans advanced for actual house purchase has

fallen by 17 per cent compared

BSA calls for Budget measures to help property huyers, in-cluding the abolition of stamp duty on purchases over £60,000.

However, his views were sharply contradicted by tan Shepherdson, UK economist : HSBC Greenwell, who said "The building societies are being disingenuous and using sta-tistics they believe will betp them in their arguments over the Bodget. The fact is that this is another extremely stroog sel

her in -

AMES C. S.

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Prides

to a co

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100 / SD.

Revelations that raise the stakes for Diana

LOUISE JURY

As the Princess of Wales arrived for her regular gym work-out yesterday, her smile was as devastating as the Panorama interview on which she had gambled her future relations

with the Royal family. She entered the Chelsea Harbour Club, in west London, in bright orange shorts and blue sweatshirt, pausing only for a very public display of courtesy as she held open the front door

for a man carrying heavy bags. The world's most photographed woman was back firmly where she seems happi-est - in the limelight. But behind the scenes, there were huge question marks over the interview's likely impact on her marriage, separation and position

as the mother of the future king. Buckingham Palace yesterday confirmed Geoff Crawford was to stand down as the Princess's press adviser in the wake of her decision to speak to the BBC's flagship current affairs programme without informing him or the Queen.

As speculation grew that the Palace could not forgive her secrecy over the affair, the suggestion arose that airing her private thoughts in public could prove a dangerous miscalculation, leaving her alongside the

Duchess of York in Royal exile. The Princess's decision to go ahead came nearly three years after her separation from the Prince - and two since she stunned guests at a charity lunch hy announcing plans to bow out of public life and spend

more time with her children. It came 17 months after Charles bared his soul and admitted adultery in an interview with Jonathan Dimhleby, a broadcast which she shrugged off by donning a striking sexy black dress and attending a charity gala.

More significantly, perhaps, it came in the wake of a series of salacious tabloid stories which accused the Princess of bombarding her friend Oliver Hoare with nuisance calls and wrecking the marriage of the England

rugby captain, Will Carling.
The public "coming out" of
Charles and Camilia at the 50th birthday party of Sarah Keswick at the Ritz on 18 October was the final straw. The

The desire to "set the record straight" must have been strong. None the tess, the timing was ironic. The most explosive Royal performance since Edward VIII took to the radio for his abdication speech in 1936 was filmed on 5 November. It was a day of fireworks and, some

would claim, betrayal. Barely a soul knew. The Princess was understood to have discussed the idea with the Duchess of York. Unconfirmed reports suggested that David Puttnam, the film producer and Diana's friend, asked the broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy how she should handle some forthcoming television appearances. But in a breathtaking coup for the Princess and the BBC, not a word leaked out until she broke the news to the Palace herself and a public announce-

ment was made last Tuesday. Details of the negotiations have been closely guarded. But that this was Diana signalling she will not be silenced must have been noted with some alarm by Buckingham Palace.

In case they missed the strength of her power and charm, she went out on the town last night as guest of honour at a £1,000-a-head cancer charity gala at Bridgewater House, just yards from her estranged husband's London front door at St James's Palace.

The Panorama interview was a high-profile, high-risk strate-gy to get the public on her side and regain the upper hand for berself and her children.

The sight of the Royal aide Tiggy Legge-Bourke acting as surrogate mother to the young princes and speculation that steps were being taken to acclimatise the public to a Charles-Camilla partnership have rocked the boat for Diana.

Although the hitter rows and her fight against bulimia had left her thin and pale by the time of the official separation in December 1992, the Princess was then deemed to have out-manoeuvred Buckingham Palace. She was left with her own private court at Kensington Palace and with authority

over her boys unchallenged. The question today is whether in laying down her vision of her future she has trumped the Palace again. Or whether, by risking all, it will be



Brief encounter: The Princess of Wales with her husband and the young princes, William and Harry, nn William's first day at Eton last September

ROYAL FAMILY AT WAR

Panorama interview: Princess of Wales has seized the initiative but the decision to go public may undermine her position

Key players stick to their schedule as drama unfolds

IAN Mackinnon

As the clock ticked toward the Panorama theme music, the key players in the Royal drama played their parts unfalteringly and apparently without a care. Leading royals stuck firm-ly to their schedule of engagements outlined in the Court Circular and fixed months in advance of word of the Princess of Wales's revelations.

Similarly, for the bit part actors on the fringes of the affair. it was business as usual as they kept up the façade of unflap- grandmother over the weekend

pability in the face of potentially damming remarks. In the midst of it all, the Queen Mother, one of the rocks on which the royal dynasty is founded, remained in King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers in London recovering from her hip operation.

Buckingham Palace reported that she had a "quiet and sat-isfactory" weekend. "Her Majesty has become more mo-hile and is now walking outside her room." said a spokesman. Both Prince Charles and Prince Edward visited their

to Highgrove House, near Tethury, Gloucestershire, where he was met shortly before 10am

and told journalists on leaving

Prince Charles had returned

that she was in good spirits.

yesterday by Camilla Parker-Bowles. She smiled and posed for photographers as she left Highgrove to join the 60-strong Beaufort hunt at Leighterton, a mile from the estate. Prince Charles, who normally joins the hunt later in the day, was nowhere to be seen.

At 12.15pm - as Mrs Parker-Bowles continued the hunt - a

helicopter from the Queen's engagement, the opening of Flight left Highgrove taking an exhibition of Jain art from Prince Charles to Kensington Palace. Thirty minutes later a grim-faced Prince Charles left for Buckingham Palace where the Queen, who had returned from Sandringham, hosted a 60th hirthday lunch in honour

of King Hussein of Jordan. Among the guests were, John Major, ex-King Constantine of Greece, Queen Noor of Jordan, Oueen Anne-Marie of Greece, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince Edward. Prince Philip moved smoothly on to his next

India at the Victoria and Albert museum in Kensington, west London. He joined the Queen at the Dominion Theatre in London's West End for a Royal Variety Performance, which continued as the Princess's in-

terview was broadcast. Prince Charles, on the other hand, had returned to Highgrove where, it is thought, he watched the interview before boarding the royal train at midnight, bound for Cornwall and another round of engagements

today. In contrast, the Princess of Wales was guest of honour at a £1,000-a-head gaia for a cancer charity.

Another of those implicated in the drama, the England rug-by captain, Will Carling, spent the day at the offices of his management consultancy in Fulham, south-west London. With the Princess linked to the separation from his wife, Julia, he was saying little, though he was reported to be feeling much better" after being concussed during England's defeat by South Africa at the weekend.

Rival courts that may lead to a constitutional crisis

JAMES CUSICK

Britain today has returned to the 18th-century days of having two rival royal courts. With the Princess of Wales boldly bypassing the authority of the sovereign and stating to a world-wide audience of 200 million that she will determine her own role and how the heir to the throne will be brought up, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has now entered a full-scale constitutional crisis, according to a

leading government historian. Dr John Barnes, of the London School of Economics, believes that the ignoring of the Queen's authority and of the precedents laid out in the 1701 Act of Settlement has brought the prospect of a republican UK

Diana's self-appointed agenda, according to Dr Barnes, means "we have returned to the days of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and George III. Then there was a classic royal confrontation between the opposition politicians comprising the Tories and dissident Whigs who courted the future king in his own rival court against George's own court". Only the death of Frederick, killed by an illguided cricket ball, avoided open royal warfare.



The emergence of party government, and the end of the sovereign's power to appoint the Prime Minister, effectively ended court rivalry inside the

monarchy. Until now. "Diana, by going on televi-sion, has now set up her own rival show to the Queen," said Dr Barnes. "This is such an oldfashioned way of playing royal politics, that the British people will simply not be used to what is about to happen. The Princess of Wales is demanding all of the privileges, but is tak-ing on none of the obligations." The "extraordinary position"

other historian close to the though the Act still remains, Diroyal family, differed slightly and has for the first time said it from the Prince of Wales's own television interview just over a year ago. It is understood that Charles advised the Queen what he was about to do and she reluctantly agreed to the cameras coming in. Diana kept hidden until the last moment all details of the Panorama programme and at no time sought the Queen's authorisation.

Dr Barnes said: "Quite simply - regardless of what the Panorama chat contained - Diana is stating 'I'm no longer playing the game the firm's way. And I'm not going to tell the firm what I'm doing.'" It the firm what I'm doing." was, said Dr Barnes, the end of the princess playing by even the minimum of royal rules.

Her comments that William, the future king, will be brought up under her guidance may appear a casual comment by a young mother. Inside sources in Buckingham Palace yesterday were not so understanding.

When the Act of Succession was drawn up at the beginning of the 18th century, stipulating the sovereign would be brought up in the Protestant faith, and that the sovereign would be responsible for an beir's education (and at that time marriage), it was a system that attempted to of the princess, according to an- control the future monarch. Al-

is her business, and not the Oueen's, to be responsible for William. "We will now need to wait and see how Diana intends to enforce this," Dr Barnes said. The resignation of the Buck-

ingham Palace-appointed press secretary to Diana, Geoff Crawford, may be the start of an ex-odus of "Palace" staff. According to another Buckingham Palace source the "contractual mess" which Diana is now facing with the BBC over financial rights to the interview "would never have happened" had she been properly advised.

The solution to avoid constitutional chaos? "You remove the fuel from the fire by divorce," said Dr Barnes. The Princess of Wales said no to any talk of divorce, but Dr Barnes said there will now be immense pressure for her to do so. "She will become a loose cannon if she is the ex-wife of Charles, but that will be less embarrassing

As well as Diana playing games by her own rules, Dr Barnes believes the BBC "showed very poor judgement". He said they treated Diana "as a personality and not as a cru-cial part of the constitution. In

than her becoming Queen."

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Labour finds window of opportunity

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Labour scooped a record-breaking audience for a partypolitical hroadcast last night, as the nation tuned in for the news before the royal interview, and found itself watching "On The Slide" instead.

The five-minute hlack-andwhite film, made by Howard Guard, attacked the Conservatives' record and set out the shadow Chancellor Gordon attack against us," he said. Brown's plans for "fair taxes".

The timing of yesterday's broadcast was agreed two Princess of Wales agreed to give her interview to Panorama. By chance, it was the first time a broadcast has been screened on

a Monday outside an election campaign, because there is live football on television tonight, tomorrow and Thursday nights, and Labour insisted on a broadcast the week before the Budget. David Hill, the party's chief spokesman, said it was the party's sixth broadcast this year. The Tories have only used two of their permitted six. "They neither feel they have a message worth putting across, nor do they have any coherent line of

A Tory party spokesman said: "All the research indicates that PPBs only have any real impact months ago, long before the in the run-up to an election. We are quite content for Labour to continue to waste resources on the wrong kind of advertising at the wrong time of year."

Record power surges since 1970

2 800 mega-watts 4 July 1990: World Cup semi-final, England v Germany.

2,200 mega-watts April 1991: Dading Buds of May. May 1991: Darling Buck of May.

11 April 1994: Coronation Street and EastEnders ran head to head and finished at the same time. 16.09 million viewers for EastEnders. 8 May 1985: Dallas and This is Your Life ended at the same time. 16 Jamary 1984: The Thombirds.

1,900 mega-watts 5 April 1994: EastEnders.18.20 million viewers,

29 July 1981: Diana and Charles's wedding. 9 April 1992: EastEnders, 18.57 million viewers. September 1992: EastEnders. 19,26 million viewers:

29th June 1994: Prince Charles's Dimbleby Interview.

Lad reserve the right to refuse payment against mixe

Yorkshire pours in cash to fight drought

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Yorkshire Water yesterday douhled its efforts to bring water to the region's drought-hit cities by road. But the company also said recent rainfall meant there would now be no need for on-off rota cuts for some 600,000 people until January at

Up to 600 road tankers will move millions of gallous a day. an operation unprecedented for a British water company. New slip roads, lorry parks and gantries carrying hoses have had to be installed.

We're not out of the woods," said a spokesman. "If people think we're crying wolf, they should come and look at

on a week ago. But normally at 80 per cent full, or 33 per cent

For the past 10 weeks a growing number of tankers have been taking water from Loftsome Bridge water treatment works, near Selby, more than 40 miles to Halifax and Huddersfield, the worst affected areas.

Yesterday two new tankering operations began. One will be bringing up to 25,000 tons of water a day from Long Newton reservoir, on Teesside, to reservoirs serving Leeds, using up to 300 tankers

They will work 24 hours a day, making several of the 130mile round trips. Much of the water they are bringing comes ultimately from Kielder Water. in Northumberland, the largest man-made reservoir in Europe, having first moved by pipeline,

then the river Tees, then another pipeline to the reservoir.

The other operation is bringing water from the mains of York to Leeds, using 50 tankers. All the tankers have to be steam cleaned before they can carry water, and the total operation is costing the company about £3m a week.

Yorkshire Water has brought in one of Britain's largest road freight firms, Exel Logistics, to run the entire operation from next Monday. But the owners of some small haulage firms whose tankers and drivers have been sub-contracted are warning that their pay and conditions will deteriorate sharply under

"If this new system goes ahead it means I and many others drivers will pack up," said hired 10 tankers and taken on

the new regime.

drivers who were on the dole He claimed the vehicles would have to be driven dangerously fast if they were to make any money from their contracts. Yorkshire Water said talks between sub-contractors and Exel Logistics were continuing and it would not compromise on road safety.

Last week the Government beld a public inquiry into Yorkshire Water's request for an emergency drought order which would allow it to cut off households for 24 hours at a time.

The inquiry inspector's report will be with the Department of the Environment in the next few days. But John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, will not have to make a decision on whether to allow the cut offs until the time comes when Yorkshire Water says it

William Hill takes gamble on Irish lottery to reverse decline

GREG WOOD

William Hill yesterday opened a new front in the bookmaking industry's response to the National Lottery when it started to numbers in the Irish state lottery. Punters will be able to bet on selecting between one and five of the correct numbers, with a maximum pay-out of £100,000.

Hills, along with other bookmakers, bingo halls, casinos and pools companies, has seen betting turnover drop significantly in the 12 months since the launch of the British lottery. Its new bet on the Irish numbers is an attempt both to arrest the decline and to persuade the Government to allow similar wagers on the domestic draw.

We are 20 million betting slips down, January to November, year on year," Graham William Hill's spokesman, said yesterday. The National Lottery is the

on rest cate | 20p per min (17p+VAT)



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Luck of the Irish: The new William Hill coupon

divorce Di after Panorama ... or on whether someone will assassinate John Major, we could, it's just that we choose not to."

The mechanics of the Irish lottery are similar to Britain's, with six winning numbers and a bonus ball, although in Ireland there are 42 balls, seven fewer than in Britain, and two weekly draws. The odds offered by only thing we are not allowed Hills "Lucky Numbers" coupon

to bet on by law. If we wanted to bet on whether Charles will one of the seven winning numone of the seven winning numbers. to 32,767-1, for selecting five out of the first six numbers.

In strict mathematical terms. the prices are not generous, but they are better than those offered by Camelot, Any three from six in the weekly British draw pays £10, or odds of 9-1 (the actual chance is 56-1), while a similar perm with the new Hills coupon would pay at incided with figures which showed that the lottery has now overtaken the betting shop industry in its contribution to the Exchequer. During its first 46 weeks, the Government's 12 per cent cut of ticket sales was £468m. Betting duty was £461m during the same period.

The news will renew calls

from bookmakers to even out what they see as unfair advantages granted to Camelot to guarantee a successful launch of the lottery. Apart from its monopoly on betting on its winning numbers, the company is allowed to advertise on television and radio, and also to sell tickets to 16 and 17-year-olds. The National Lottery Charities Board handed out a further £35m in grants yesterday, which included a £477,000 grant to a Birmingham project for the mentally ill. The allocation of the second tranche of grants followed criticisms that the board had fallen into the clutches of political correctness.



Celebrity sale: A Christie's official holds a 19th-century bronze, one of numerous items from the main Paris home of Rudolf Nureyev, who died in 1993. Fans and collectors have been bidding for the ballet star's clothing and other artefacts in a two-day sale, which ends today and is expected to fetch more than £2m Photograph: Peter Macdiamid

Jury facing trial lock-in

JOHN WILLCOCK

The Maxwell trial jury of seven women and five men may find their Christmas shopping

days limhed. Lord Justice Phillips told them yesterday, at the conclusion of evidence in the marathon case, that he expects to begin summing up on Monday 11 December.

He did not tell the Old Bailey jury how long he will be but indicated that once the jurors had been sent out to consider their verdict he would expect them to continue deliberations at the weekend if necessary.

The judge said that it was usual in cases where no verdict had been reached after the first day for the jury to stay in a hotel until they had decided. He said that if this presented any difficulties they should tell him, and they might be allowed to stay at home instead. However, he would prefer them to stay in a hotel.

Lord Justice Phillips added that he was being sworn in as a Privy Councillor on Thursday The Maxwell Trial



morning and therefore there would be a hreak, with the trial resuming in the afternoon.

The jury was also told on day 105 of the case that neither Ian Maxwell nor the former Maxwell aide Larry Trachtenherg will be giving evidence in their own defence. lan's younger brother, Kevin, was in

the witness hox for 21 days. Final speeches by counsel are expected to begin today, beginning with Alan Suckling QC for the prosecution. The two Maxwell brothers and Trachtenberg all deny conspiracy to defraud by misuse of pension fund assets

The trial continues today.

agreement (which is indepen-

dent of the EU) excludes from

patenting any invention whose

Writers urged to cut smoking

LIZ HUNT

Script-writers of British soap operas such as Coronation Street and EastEnders are guilty of sending a pro-smoking message to younger viewers, unlike their Australian rivals on Neighbours and Home and Away, health experts claimed yester-

A survey by the Health Education Authority found there are almost three times as many portrayals of smoking in homegrown soaps (14 per cent of programmes) than those produced

in Australia (5 per cent). Dr Guy Cumberhatch, of Aston University, who conducted the research, viewed 304 episodes of leading soap operas to gauge the level and type of smoking, and interviewed 240 11 to 15-year-olds on their attitudes to cigarettes in soaps. Dr Cumberbatch found that on average one in four characters were perceived as smokers in British soap op-eras, compared with 1 in 11 in the Antipodean versions.

Certain characters in some programmes, such as Bianca in EastEnders – a rebelliõus, glamorous teenager - are perceived. as smokers even though they have never been seen smoking

on screen. Baroness health minister, joined leadi soap stars to launch the HEA's latest anti-smoking campaign, "Stub Out Smoking in Soaps", yesterday.

The campaign aims to encourage producers to cut on-screen smoking and to develop anti-smoking themes.

Although the level of smoking in soaps is low - of 9,555 characters in current soaps just 23 smoked - Leanne Riley, the HEA's smoking manager, said: Soap operas have a significant impact on the lives of young people. We have seen their in-fluence when recent story lines have highlighted the dangers of

issues such as HTV and Aids. "Australian soaps have proved that they can tackle smoking issues whilst retaining their popularity. Perhaps we should follow their lead."

Government gave animal patents

TOM WILKIE Science Editor

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The British Government has quictly been awarding patents on living animals to private companies, despite international disquiet at classifying

life forms as "inventions". The patents involve ways of making sheep woollier and of increasing their growth rates.

The UK's unilateral policy came to light on the eve of a hearing by the European Pateni Office into the "Harvard Oncomouse" - a laboratory animal which had been genetically

engineered to develop cancer. Harvard, which claims that the patenting of plant or animal patenting of plant or animal mouse will be useful in revarieties. search into cancer, wants ex-Joyce D'Silva, director of clusive rights to produce and

Compassion in World Farming (CTWF) said: "We already see market the animals. Today in Munich, lawyers farm animals - pigs and lambs representing 17 opposition groups – including animal wel-lare campaigners and religious -that have had growth-hormone genes added. The pigs are de-formed and impotent and the organisations - will argue that lambs develop fatal diabetes."
Originally, CIWF believed patenting live animals is contrary to the European Patent Convention. This international

that the Harvard Oncomouse was the first European attempt to patent a living animal. But it has now emerged that in September 1992, the British Patent exploitation would be contrary Office awarded a patent to the

National Research Development Corporation (then newly privatised as the British Technology Group) for the use of a type of virus to carry genes from cattle or other animals into sheep for "production of ani-mals with enhanced growth rate". In January 1993, h awarded a patent to Luminis Pty, an Australian company hased in Adelaide, for sheep genetically engineered to produce more wool. Both patents cover not only the process, but also the

produced in this way. Leading article, Page 16

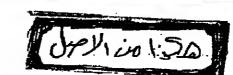
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Examination league tables: Critics fear 'damaging consequences' for those performing poorly in comparisons of grades

Best and worst in schools grow further apart

ממחר אנומחר **Education Editor**

The gap between the pupils who do best at GCSE and those who do worst is widening, according to the Government's tables of school examination performance published today.

Critics say the polarisation is the result of the league tables which cocourage schools to concentrate on getting the maximum number of pupils through five GCSEs at top grades - the main measure of performance.

While the proportion getting five A-C grades is up to 43.5 per cent this year from 43.3 per cent last year and 41.1 per cent the year before, the percentage who fail to get even one pass is up from 7 per cent two years ago to 8.1 per cent.

Head Teachers, said: "There is already evidence that the 'long tail of underperformance' will lengthen for those who cannot achieve pass grades. This would be an unforeseen yet highly damaging consequence of league tables in their present

"There is a twelvefold gap between the top and bottom 20 per cent of GCSE results. We clearly need to do more to lever up the standards of those getting low grades or no

Headteachers are critical of the way in which the tables are compiled. Bruce Douglas, prin-cipal of Branston Community

Top 10 most improved state schools

Biggest increase - 1994-95 - in percentage of pupils gaining five or more A-C grades at GCSE.

St Francis Xavier, Richmond, North Yorkshire	29-61
Neadswood School, Southampton	50-75
St Saviour's and St Olave's, London.	17-42
Trinity School, Belevedere, Kent.	11-35
Golborne High School, Warrington	21-45
The Warvick School, Redhill	35-58
Whitecross High School, Hereford	16-39
Samuel King's School, Aiston	40-63
Ashlyns School, Berkhamsted	37-59
Filey School, Filey	27-49

Bottom 10 comprehensives

Percentage getting five or more GCSEs at A-C

	Amy Johnson School, Hull, Humberside: 0	
	Parkside School, Plymouth, Devon 0	
	Benjamin Gott High School, Leeds 0	
	Battersea Technology College, Wandsworth 1	•
	Archoisnop Tenison's, Lambeth 1	
	Pope John Paul RC, Liverpool 2	٠.
	South Halifax High School, Calderdale 2	
	Campion Boys', Liverpool 2	
	Lea Mason CofE School, Birmingham 2	':
ĺ	Fairfax Community School, Bradford 2	

of the National Association of

Peter Kilfoylc, Labour's schools spokesman, said:

grades.

Ministers have commissioned work on "value-added" tables which would compare a school's performance with its intake. The top comprehensives inpool Blue Coat School which have been accused of partially selecting their pupils by interview.

public by giving a raw score and

calling it performance."

The bottom comprehensives include Battersea Technology College, in the Conservatives' favourite borough, Wandsworth in south-west London, where only 1 per cent of pupils gained five or more top passes.

This year's figures show that truancy has risen slightly from 0.9 per cent of half days missed through unauthorised absence 10 | per cent. Authorised absence was up from 8.1 per cent to 8.2 per cent. However, headteachers say that these figures are meaningless because children who play truant may bring notes from their mothers while those who are ill may not.

They also attack the way in which a school's position in the tables can fluctuate sharply from year to year, sometimes for no apparent reason. Archhishop Tenison, a grant-mnintained school in the south London borough of Lambeth, which has just received permission from Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, to become selective, last year had 17 per cent of pupils with five A-C grades at GCSE. This year it has only 1 per cent.

Even the performance of one pupil can make a difference. The City of Londoo School for Girls said that the failure to include a single pupil's maths result at A-level had meant that it was 62nd rather than 53rd in independent schools league tables published earlier this year. Full tables: Section Two

supplement



Room for improvement: Pupils at Northicote School, Wolverhampton, which has recovered strongly after being failed

Criticism inspires comprehensive success

"Excellence for Everyone" is the slogan at the Northicote School in Wolverbampton. The staff at England's first comprehensive to be officially failed by schools inspectors are nothing if not ambitious.

Yesterday the efforts of the school, where poor huildings, litter, vandalism and broken windows were found to put both education and health at risk, have paid off.

Pupils were called to special assemblies to be told that education ministers had given their school a clean bill of health. And that was oot all; league tables published today show that its GCSE scores have almost trebled since 1991.

When inspectors from the Office for Standards in EducaAnalysis

tion, Ofsted, visited Northicote in November 1993 its head teacher had been in the job just six weeks and its chairman of governors, Fred Preston, was

Instead of greeting the judgement with anger and resent-ment, as some schools have, they welcomed the findings and viewed them as a helpful point-

er to the way ahead. Our view was that we were going to become one of the best schools io Wolverhampton, even the best. Now the school is a different place," Mr Preston

Yesterday he addressed three

gatherings of delighted pupils. The atmosphere was much warmer than three years ago, be said, and there was a "buzz" about the school.

In 1991, just 8 per cent of Northicote's pupils gained five or more A-C grades at GCSE. This year the figure had risen

to 23 per cent, a respectable score for an urban comprehensive. The proportion staying on at 16 multiplied almost fivefold from 8 per cent last year to 38 per cent this year.

In a bid to improve the school, staff and governors rewrote the timetable so that pupils spent more time studying the subjects which Northicote did hest, Modern languages and Eoglish were given a boost, while music and

members of staff took voluntary redundancy. At the same time, the

school's finances and management were overhauled. A decaying music wing and dining hall were pulled down, and the site was cleaned up. Wheo the Ofsted inspectors returned, they found effective

leadership, good behaviour, a much-improved site and teaching which was satisfactory or hetter in three-quarters of "The school is an orderly

community; it is now a welcoming place where adults and pupils treat each other with mutual respect," they commented. Yesterday the schools minister. Rohin Squire, praised the

humanities were cut back. Four hard work of its staff and govemors.

"Northicote's success provides a challenge to all other schools requiring special measures to pull together and ensure that their pupils get the education they deserve," he

An adult literacy scheme run by the school has been declared to be prohably the best in the country, but Mr Preston says progress must continue. Future projects will include an upgrade of the sports facilities and further efforts to improve exam performance.

"You never stop, do you? There's always some way you can get better," he said.

Fran Abrams

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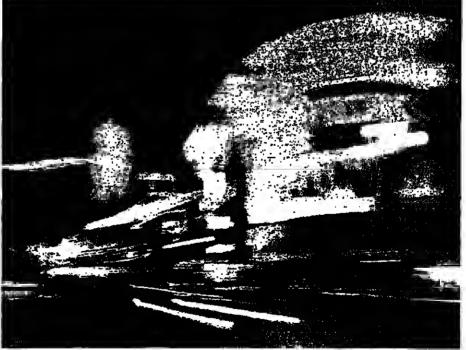
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Speed zones: Nomis considers introducing 10mph limit on roads to reduce the number of accidents involving children

Minister aims to reclaim the streets

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR and GLENDA COOPER

Zones with 10mph speed limits could be introduced into residential areas if it could be shown that they would reduce road accidents, Steve Norris, the minister for road safety, said

yesterday.

Speaking at a conference in the City of London, on Play in the Streets, Mr Norris said: "If work, why not consider lower timits still." However, he warned that preliminary studies on such zones in the Netherlands suggested that they may be less effective than 20mph zones in reducing accidents be-cause "children were confused" about cars going so slowly.

Nevertheless, he would look at the idea because 20mph zones had been shown to be effective in reducing speed and accidents. There are already more than 200 such zones in Britain and Mr Norris said regulations governing their design are being relaxed so that local authorities can introduce more.

A spokeswoman for the Automobile Association said it supported the idea of 10mph zones "in relevant areas such as roads without adequate footpaths". However, she said that roads would have to be cobbled or designed with chicanes to slow the traffic, adding: "You can't just stick up a 10mph sign and expect it to be obeyed."

The conference, organised by the National Children's Bureau and the National Voluntary Council for Children's Play,

called for the streets to be reclaimed as areas in which children could play by examining ways of redesigning streets and curtailing traffic. While streets used to have several functions as spaces for walking, cycling. and playing, they have now become through ways in which the sole function is to play host to

speeding traffic. According to Dr Mayer Hill-man, of the Policy Studies In-20mph zones can be made to stitute, children have become prisoners in their own homes, trapped by their parents' fears about the dangers of traffic. In 1971, 80 per cent of 7 and eight-year-olds were allowed to go to school without adult su-pervision. By 1990, this had fall-en to 9 per cent. The issue was not just about road accidents but about long-term health. "Already 450 people die every day from coronary heart disease. Because children are not al-lowed out to walk or cycle, they develop a sedentary lifestyle. It is a time bomb that

> rates in 20 or 30 years' time." Road accidents are the piggest single cause of death for children up to the age of 15.

will explode in terms of death

But, according to Rob Wheway, a traffic consultant, we are way, a tank constant, we are killing our children. "We will kill them in early middle age through heart and lung disease because they are not getting healthy exercise that they should get in their formative years. If children are prevented from walking and cycling as part of a healthy lifestyle, they are unlikely to start these activities in adulthood," he said,



Street games: Children playing on streets is a rare sight. Many are kept indoors trapped by parents' fears about the dangers of traffic Photograph: Edward Webb

Supermarket chain will urge shoppers to keep it green

Environment Correspondent

A new green supermarket chain opened its first branch yesterday with the aim of persuading people to shop for a better world.

The Out of This World chain, financed by 2,000 small and environmentally-minded or soestablished its first shop in Bris- dozens were joining while more about what should and should tol. A second will open in Gosforth, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. next month with seven more to follow by the end of next year.

Customers will be asked to become lifetime members of the cooperative which runs the chain for a £5 fee, although they than 1.000 visited the shop.

"This is about trying to convert people's social and environmental concerns into choices about what they huy," said Richard Adams, the managing director. The membership scheme will make customers will be offered an initial three loyal to the shops and encourcially concerned investors, has month free trial. Yesterday age them to express their views includes items such as paints

not be stocked.

Nearly three-quarters of the products on sale are food, including locally grown organic vegetables and "fair trade" produce brought from poor farmers in developing countries at an above-market rate, stable prices.

The remainder of the stock

and cleaners with minimum environmental harm, beauty products and deodorants not tested on animals, arts and crafts products from the Third World, and wines and heers.

There are 3,000 different lines on sale in Bristol, a little less than half the number found in one of the new, compact urban supermarkets such as Tesco Metro.

£250,000 to set up and the existing investors, recruited mainly by magazine advertisements, have so far raised nearly £1m. The average investment is £400

and there are no bank loans. If the stores flourish they will be reviving a green consumer movement which went into reverse after the heady days of the

Each store costs about late 1980s, when every major supermarket chain jumped on green bandwagon.

Earlier this month a healthy eating and organic foods supermarkel opened in Bayswater, London, run on commercial lines. Planet Organic hopes to open a second store in the capital next year. Section Two, page 11 Woolwich 'told of safety fears'

A woman posing as the build-ing society manageress Carol Wardell rang senior official discuss safety fears three days before she was murdered in an apparent robbery, a court was told yesterday.

The woman phoned the head office of the Woolwich Building Society to report a strang hanging around the branch Mrs Wardell managed in Nuneaton,

Warwickshire.
David Smith, the customer relations controller, told Oriord Crown Court that the woman. who introduced herself as "Carol from Nuncaton", asked his advice about security and whether she should call police.

Mr Smith, who had never met Mrs Wardell, went on holiday and only learnt of her murder two weeks later. He told the jury that he then "gradually realised" Caroi, or someone purporting to be her, had rung him

a fortnight earlier.

After watching training videos featuring Mrs Wardell, he confirmed hers was not the voice he heard in the fourminute phone call. Mr Smith was giving evidence on the third day of the trial of her hisband, Gordon. Mr Wardell, 42, denies murdering his 39-year-old wife at their home in Meriden. Warwickshire, on 14 September last year, before faking a raid at her building so. ciety to make it look as though she had been killed by robbers.

Mr Smith, who worked at the society's headquarters in Berleyheath, south-east London, described the phone call which he received at 12.10pm on 8 September. He said: "She introduced herself as Carol from Nuneaton. She went on to say she was worried about the fact. that someone was harring around outside the front of the branch and was worried about security and the public relations

National Taring

aspect of reporting it.

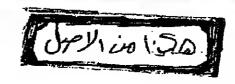
"I told her Don't worry about that. The security of yourself and the staff is the most important thing. Ring the post lice and don't worry'.

The case continues today,





it takes all sorts



Fab Four finally come together in spirit for one last song

Mersey's new beat: Security was tight and tempers frayed at the launch of the first new Beatles single for 25 years

Arts Correspondent

Security was tight. So tight that one frustrated European journalist at the launch of the first new Beatles music in 25 years yesterday shouted at the president of EMI: "This is not the Rosetta Stone. This is just a pop record that you are marketing.

His plea failed. Camera crews from all over the world were made to turn their backs as an exclusive video of the three surviving Beatles an-

swering questions was shown. The first double CD of Beatles' outtakes, demos and rejected songs was delivered to shops yesterday, after having spent the last few weeks literally under armed guard at the warchouse. Its highlight, "Free As A Bird", the first genuinely new Beatles song in a quarter of a century, was played for the

Paul, George and Ringo failed to attend a press conference at the Savoy Hotel in central London to launch the new album. But they were there in spirit, or at least on video, to give their views on the Beatles' enduring popularity.
"We were cute," said George.

"We certainly made some good records, and in our early days we were a tight little band. And we looked quite good at the time, which always helps." He put into perspective the

frenetic pace of those years. Martin defended the project when he said: "When I was 17, I was in Hamburg. By the time I was 23 we had done Sergeant Pepper and I was in the Himalayas. We put 20 years into

Ringo Starr said that impre-sarios were still offering the three £1bn to play a reunion concert. "They don't quite get the oleture. There were four of us. One of the Beatle boys isn't there any more." he said.

The surviving members of the group used Jeff Lynne, a fellow musician, to produce their new single "Free As A Bird", in which they added their har-monies and music to a cassette John Lennon made in 1977 of him singing his composition to piano accompaniment. George Martin, who was the group's manager, said yesterday he was too husy producing the An-thology album, the first of three double CDs to accompany a television history of the group which begins next weekend.

The song has a clear Beatles sound to it, with harmonies reminiscent of some of the sungs on Abbey Road, the last alhum they recorded back in 1969. It will be released as a sin-

gle on 4 December. Though a number of early songs and demos on the album are very poor quality, and though John Lennon once said that everything of worth was used on Beatles' alhums. Mr

yesterday. "I used to say that. But in the last year I have lis-tened to every take of every track we have ever done. And I realise that maybe I wasn't right. Now I realise that some of the early takes may have had mistakes but they have charm and they are gorgeous. It's in the raw. It's warts and all. People are ready for it now. They

wouldn't have been ready in 1970 or 1980," he said. Derek Taylor, the Beatles' press officer, said the album was similar to a literary exercise. He said it was the "musical equivalent" of the Churchill Papers.

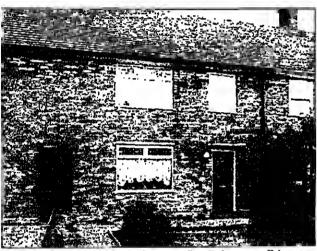
Mr Martin said "Free as a Bird" was "a super song. I like the way the harmonies move. I like the lyries. I don't think it's as good as Strawberry Fields, which actually didn't get to number one, but I think it's much better than other number ones we've had. Having heard it now I wish I had produced it

.. This will certainly be number one all over the world".



Yesterday: George Martin (left), with Jeff Lynne (centre) and Neil Aspinall at the launch of the new Beatles single

National Trust buys McCartney house



ily and dubbed the birthplace of The Beatles, has been acquired by the National Trust, it an-

nounced vesterday. The terraced house, 20 Forthlin Road in Allerton, Liverpool, was McCartney's famhome for nine years, and McCartney and John Lennon used il for writing and rehearsing in their early days. The family - Paul, his brotb-

A council house which was er, Mike, father, Jim, and mothwhen Paul was 13, and stayed until 1904, when Paul bought his father a house on the Wirral.

McCartney said yesterday: My mum would have been dead chuffed to think our little council house would end up with the National Trust. It's fantastic for me and our family."

The trust said it would not be possible to open the house to the public in the near future.



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Labour plans a campaign to protect women from violence

Lord Chancellor on the spot over the Family Law Bill by trying to reinstate safeguards against domestic violence dropped at the behest of Tory moral fundamentalists.

Lord Irvine of Lairg drew a thin smile from Lord Mackay of Clashfern when be said the Opposition would be putting down amendments "to persuade the Lord Chancellor to

The Family Law Bill, containing proposals to end "quick-ie" divorces and require a cooling off period as well as the water-down provisions on domestic violence, goes before the Lords for its second read-

ing next Thursday. It is expected to be the start of a turbulent passage through Parliament. A Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill should have passed in the last session but was held over after a group of Tory MPs protested that it would undermine mar-

riage by giving co-habitants the said the Government had suc-same rights as married couples. said the Government had suc-Opening the resumed de-bate on the Queen's Speech, Lord Mackay emphasised the cross-party support for the safebackbench revolt. He has made changes of detail requiring

Inside Parliament

Stephen Goodwin

courts to take account of the fact that co-babitants had not made the same commitment as married couples. It will also be more costly for co-habitants to resolve property disputes.

But Lord Irvine, who would be Tony Blair's Lord Chancellor if Labour wins an election,

information by a tabloid newspaper picked up by a tiny, unthinking minority in the Con-servative Party".

Had Lord Mackay soldiered on he would bave got his original Bill, he said.

The Bill will extend protec-tion against molestation to former spouses and to people living in the same bouseholds. "It in no way gives the grasping mistress any greater protection than she enjoys at present. But it does protect against granny bashing or beating up a flat mate or a child." The Bishop of Chelmsford.

the Rt Rev John Waine, emphasised the need for adequate funding for the proposed mediation service. 'At its very

beart marriage is a loving car-ing relationship, he said. "When that relationship of trust and intimacy is in danger, it is not the legal bonds which need attention but the relationship

that they are designed to pro-tect - the threat of marriage breakdown and its consequences for the children."

The Rt Rev Waine pointed out that when mediation was introduced in Canada, 19 per cent of those seeking advice decided on reconciliation.

A former member of the Se-curity Service yesterday added his approval to the Bill enabling MIS to work with the police in the fight against organised crime.

In a maiden speech, Lord Cuckney, former chairman of Westland helicopters, said that MI5, with its experience of counter-terrorism, could be deployed against organised crime and be "of benefit to the stability of the country".

But Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, for the Liberal Democrats, wondered what the public would feel about "secret police operating on our streets, whatever the purpose".



Declaration of Interest: Anna Berry, a Hampshire probation officer, joining a lobby of Parliament by the National Association of Probation Officers to protest at the Home Secretary's plans for the service Photograph: Edward Syke

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MONT.	Without Repayment Prolection .	£49.32	£73.98	£98.64	£145.49	£193.98	£242.48	£290.98	£339.47	£387.97	£436.47	£484.96
2	With Repayment Protection	£42.55	263.83	£85.11	£124.01	£165.35	£206.68	€248.02	€289.36	£330.70	£372.04	£413.37
MONTHB	Without Repayment Protection	£35.52	£53.29	£71.05	£104.02	£138.70	£173.37	\$208.05	£242.73	£277.40	2312.08	€348.7
ST-FS	With Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£71.40	£103.03	£137.38	£171.72	£206.07	£240.41	£274.76	£309.10	£343.4
MON	Without Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£57.45	£83.52	£111.36	£139.20	£167.04	£194.89	£222.73	5250.57	£278.41
100 IONTHB	With Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	€64.55	£92.19	£122.92	£153.65	£184.38	£215.11	£245.84	£276.57	£307.30
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Howard's asylum clampdown presses on

HEATHER MILLS and PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Dismissing allegations of playing the race card, Michael Howard yesterday pressed ahead with controversial plans to deal with bogus asylum seekcrs and illegal immigrants.

In the face of widespread opposition the Home Secretary maintained: "Genuine refugees will benefit from reduced abuse of the asylum system."

And in an indication that he had overcome Cabinel opposition, yesterday's proposals included plans for criminal sanctions against employers who hire illegal immigrants.

The proposals will mean about two million people a year will have to prove their identities with a passport or butth certificate before they can gain work. The estimated cost to the country's 1.2 million employers is about £13.5m to set up a monitoring scheme and £11.5m a year to run.

Mr Howard also confirmed plans to introduce a so-called white list" of countries regarded as safe and which ate therefore unlikely to produce genuinc asylum seekers.

Amnesty and other refugee organisations expect the list to include countries such as Albania, Bulgaria, the Ivory Coast, Poland, and Zimbabwe. But because there are so few applications from these countries, they expect the Government to soon add more countries where there is concern over human rights. These may include India, Pakislan and Sri Lanka, Zaire and Angola, some of which appear on other European Union countries "white lists"

Mr Howard reassured MPs in Commons statement yesterday, however, that Nigeria "is not and never has been" amongst the white list countries. Questioned by Sir Trevor Skeet, Tory MP for Bedford-British-Nigerian all-party group of MPs, over fears that genuine cases of asylum seekers would be affected. Mr Howard replied: "I have borne in mind-... the importance of doing nothing to imperil this country? honourable tradition of offering sanctuary to gemin

refugees - that we should be a haven, not a honeypot." Labour has said it plans to table a motion calling for the Bill to be studied by a special standing committee, forcing

vote after its second reading.

Jim Lesler, Tory MP for Broxtowe and chairman of the Africa committee on the Refugee Council, demanded some way of taking evidence to show what we are seeking to do is fair, effective, and fulfils

our international obligations?" There were signs, however, that a wider lory tebellion might be crumbling, as Conservative MPs complained that Jack Straw, Mr Howard's Labour shadow, had refused to accept that abuse of the asylum procedure was a problem.

Mr Straw said Labour accepted fraudulent asylum seekers must be "weeded out" out demanded "cool examination" by a special committee to take

controversy out of the issue. The Home Secretary mamtains be bas been forced to act because of a huge increase in the numbers of people claiming asylum, up from about 4,000 a year in the 1980s to about 40,000 this year. Mr Howard said that only 4 per cent of those are initially granted asylumand only 4 per cent of appeals are successful. The ontstanding number of asylum applicants is 75,000. "The scale of the probtem is alarming." he said.

Refugee groups like Annesty accept there are many false claims but say the figures are no where near as high as the Home Office suggests. It blames the Home Office for the backlog in processing cases and accusshire North and an officer of the es it of failure to remove asylum seekers found to be bogus.

Lib Dems call for electricity rebate

A £130 electricity bill rebate for each of the 23 million domestic consumers is to be called for today by the Liberal Democrats in their alternative Budget,

writes Patricia Wynn Davies.

The party is also poised to vote against cuts in basic-rate tax in next week's Budget - unless the Government invests an additional £2.5bn in education on top of the already expected increase, which is likely to cover inflation plus 2 per cent.

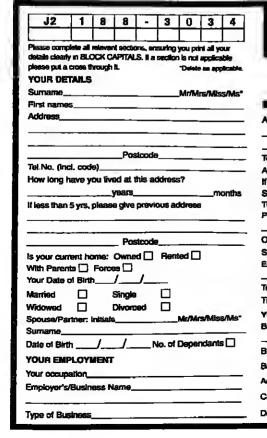
The suggestion for a Mo-nopoly Utility Rebate, or "rip off rebate, stands in contrast to Labour's pledge of a windfall tax on all the privatised utilities, to go to the Treasury. The Liberal Democrats will ar-

gue today that the rebate, to-talling £3bn, should go directly to consumers. They calculate £130 per bousehold - in addition to a £50 National Grid rebate to all consumers - based on alleged excessive profits made since privatisation, and say it should be limited to the electricity indus-

are much lower than water's. Electricity profits are up 60 per cent in real terms since privatisation in 1990-91, with the companies making £10.7bn in

profits in five years. The party will also attack the long-term objective of Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, of a 10p in the pound starting rate for income tax. It will call instead for the lifting of 750,000 people out of tax and national insurance by increasing the personal allowance from £3,525 to £3,820, paid for by a 50 per cent marginal rate of tax on earnings over £100,000.

Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, told City and business supporters at the House of Commons last night that both the Government and Labour were engaged in a "shabby deceit" of the clectorate. Labour's "casual" promises to cut income tax and VAT raise benefits and increase spending did not add up, be said.

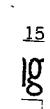


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Labour urges BSkyB 'monopoly' inquiry

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

A senior Labour MP last night called on the Government to refer Rupert Murdoch's subscription-TV service, BSkyB, to the Monopolies and Merg-ers Commission.

The move follows a campaign by UK cable operators to end what they call BSkyB's "abuse of its monopoly position" in the supply of pay-TV programming on satellite and cable.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine, and copied to Ian Lang President of the Board of Trade, Labour's shadow spokesman on competitiveness and regulation, Richard Caborn, called Mr Murdoch's pay-TV monopoly "a serious threat to the development of the UK's broadcast and communi-

cations industry". Mr Caborn complained that, despite complaints from the cable industry, the Office of Fair

Trading "seems unable to reach any final decision" concerning BSkyB's dominant position in

the market place.
With the introduction of digital television, be added, "independent cable and satellite companies could be squeezed out of the market for new digital services and products, if BSkyB's stranglebold is transferred from the analogue to the digital environment".

Several cable companies, led by International CableTel,

Videotron and Bell Cablemedia, biggest cable operators, Nynex have lodged complaints with CableComms and Telewest, are the OFT and with competition authorities. They claim that BSkyB's control of encryption industry to develop pay-per-view sports and film program-ming to compete with BSkyB. technology used to scramble and unscramble broadcast signals, along with its long-term The OFT said last summer

possible to compete, Specifically, the cable companies have complained that long-term supply agreements between BSkyB and the two

agreements for the supply of

movies and sports, make it im-

anti-competitive, and had made it impossible for the cable

in the agreements but has yet to announce the new contract BSkyB, which operates satellite channels and provides pro-

that it had demanded changes

gramming for cable through

contracts on an a la carte basis, had no comment last night. The OFT spokesman said: "The contracts are very com-plicated, and we are still considering the arrangements." He added that there was no

timetable for a decision, and that consultations continued. The competition watchdog has already ruled on BSkyB's competitive practices, over-turning arrangements between the satellite broadcaster and the US-based Disney Channel earlier this month. The OFI bad aimed to end the "bundling" of BSkyB's movie channels with Disney, and only available to subscribers who take both premium BSkyB services.

Although the bundling

arrangement has been revised, the OFT said yesterday it continued to monitor the situation.

Earlier this year, BSkyB agreed to informal undertakings on the supply of programming to the cable industry. But many

smaller companies complain

improved competition.
Mr Caborn's intervention follows several high-profile complaints from semor media executives, including Channel 4's Michael Grade and Leslie Hill, chairman of Central Teles vision, about the role BSkyB: plays in the supply of pay-TV programming in the UK.

My letter reflects my concerns about the lack of compe-tition policy we have in this country." Mr Caboru said.

Funeral in Toxteth: Police hope that bloody cycle of street violence will come to an end with the burial of David Ungi

Fears as family bids farewell to inner-city legend

JONATHAN FOSTER

The family was believed to have spent £12,000 on the wake last night, a torrent of a sendoff for David Ungi which police in Liverpool hope will drown the cycle of gangland vengeance which led to his fatal amhush.

Mr Ungi was gunned down in Toxteth in May. His funeral yesterday raised detectives fears that the decorum of a requiem mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church will be an overture to further settling of scores.

In their own inner city patch. the Ungi family are nobility, evoking fear and deference.

The funeral will make working class legend. Its cortege of 31 stretch limousines took five minutes to pass and had to be double parked before the mourners could walk to the church watched by a crowd of about 1,000 people

More than 150 family and close friends stepped from the limos, their gold bracelets and sunbed tans conspicuous in the monotone of mean streets.

A flat bed lorry followed the procession, covered with flowers. Mr Ungi's three sons sent a 5ft high tableau depicting his picture and a dove. There were floral boxing rings, a boxing glove and titles - to "Dad", "Un-

cle", "Brother", and "Gent". His mother, Vera, composed a memorial notice in the Liverpool Echo, turning ber late son's name into an acronym: "D" for Distinguished, "A" for Admirable, through to "I" for Incomparable.

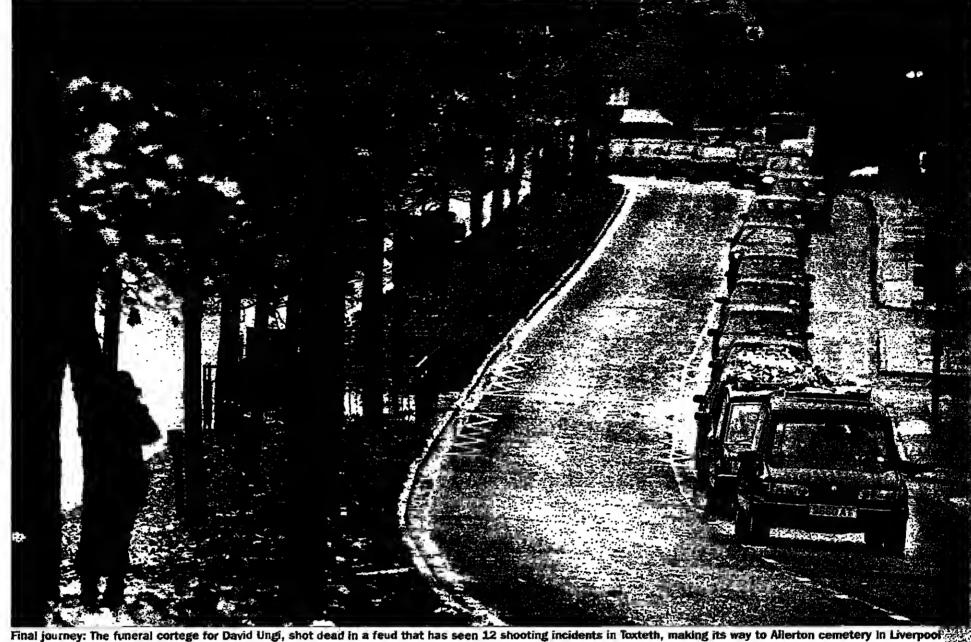
Not all the family could be at the graveside at Allerton cemetery, where all other funerals had been cancelled for the day. Two of Mr Ungi's six brothers are in custody charged with a violent reprisal, while an uncle and six friends joined them vesterday on drugs charges.

Police investigating Mr Ungi's murder named two men they wanted to question in connection with the attack, when two sbots left Mr Ungi to bleed to death. Both men are believed to be in Jamaica.

The feud has so far led to 12 sbooting incidents. Six people have been hurt, many more frightened. At the height of the violence, police cradled machine-guns as they patrolled the streets of Toxteth.

Vendeltas had begun between Mr Ungi's entourage and rivals from nearby Granby when machismo was wounded, according to police. An insult in a pub named Cbeers became a street fight, then a sbooting, then a murder.

What happens after the wake will determine wbether bloody jealousy will be laid to rest with David Ungi. In the meantime, all police leave has been



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Vauxhall facing strike threat in battle over pay and hours

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

The Vauxhall motor company was warned yesterday that it will face an overtime ban and a unilateral two-hour cut in the working week unless there is a substantial improvement in an offer on pay and conditions.

In the wake of a strike vote of almost four to one, union leaders have given management until tomorrow to improve its proposals. Vauxhall's manual employees have been of-fered 3.5 per cent this year with an increase tied to the inflation rate next year, but management has refused to concede a reduction in hours.

Union leaders said that if management did not address the claim, they would give the disruption, with the company's because it would mean a re-10,000 workers taking action duction in competitiveness. "We from around 30 November.

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the motor industry at the Transport and General Workers' Union, said Vauxhall would at least have to match the offer from Ford, which gave workers a minimum of 9.25 per cent over two years, but which had been rejected by the union leaders.

Roger Butler, of the Amalmated Engineering and Electrical Union, emphasised the employees' claim for a reduction in the working week from 39 to 37 hours at the company's two plants at Luton and Ellesmere Port on Merscyside.

Bruce Warman, Vauxhall's director of personnel, said the company was "adamant" over its refusal to grant fewer hours duction in competitiveness. "We are absolutely determined not to reduce hours. It's fundamental to our position. It is not on the agenda." The offer on pay was "fair", and would cost the company around 5 per cent in each of the two years. The

package included an extra day's holiday and a new vehicleleasing scheme. There was no room for manoeuvre, he said. He registered his concern and disappointment about the vote in which 5,201 opted for strikes with 1,425 against. The vole for disruption short of walkouts

was even larger at 5,971 to 684. Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&G, said industrial action was inevitable unless there was a "substantial improvement" in the offer. "Our mem-

bers feel very strongly. We will

have difficulty in restraining Ihem," be said At Ford, union officials are

consulting their members at the 13 plants over a two-part offer which gives 4.75 per centin. the first year, and 4.5 per cent or the inflation rate plus 0.5 per cent, whichever is greater, in the second. Officials are expected tomorrow to call for fress are gotiations, bul some plantage less enthusiastic about a on industrial action than office.

Ammunition for the minors

came yesterday from the ladustrial Relations Services research group which found few engineering firms had suffered as a result of cutting hours. Of 21 companies that cut hours as a result of a union campaign is 1989-91, two-thirds suffered no adverse consequences and a third reported it heneficial.

£500,000 theft case collapses

Two grandmothers charged with embezzling more than £500,000 from a firm of solicitors walked free from court yesterday after the Crown's case against them dramatically

collapsed. Elegnor Masson, 62, and Doreen Cruickshank, 55, denied stealing £572,778 from the Aberdeen lawyers Storie, Cruden and Simpson.

The Crown had claimed the cash was embezzled between January 1982 and February 1991, while the women worked as legal cashiers with the firm. But after only two witnesses had given evidence in the Aberdeen Sheriff Court trial which began on 9 November and was initially expected to last several months - both accused were acquitted by Sheriff Ken-neth Forbes, to gasps from the

public benches. The defence counsel in the case, Herbert Kerrigan QC and Edward Targowski QC. criticised the Crown for its "incompetence" during four years of compiling evidence.

The women were freed after the Crown was unable to continue its case because of difficulties in presenting evidence of bank statements under the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act of 1993.

Sheriff Forbes rejected a Crown motion asking for the case to be deserted temporarily and for an extension until next April to allow the prosecution to change its method of presenting evidence.

Masson, of Burnieboozle Crescent, Aberdeen, and Cruickshank, of Gordon Court, Newmachar, near Aberdeen, showed no reaction as they left the dock, neither acknowledging the other. Lawyers for the Crown would not say if they would appeal, but added: "We

are reviewing our position."

Melville Watson, a senior partner with Storie, Cruden and Simpson, later criticised the way the case collapsed. It is understood that the firm is pursuing a separate civil case

Carey summons rebel bishop

ANDREW BROWN Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has summoned one of his "flying bisbops" to Lambeth Palace after he called on the Church to renounce female priests three years after the General Synod decided to ordain them.

The Rt Rev Edwin Barnes, Bishop of Richborough, is one of the three "flying bishops" spe-cially appointed to minister to opponents of female priests. In the last 10 years, female

priests and their supporters have been compared to the Aids virus, to witches who should be burnt at the stake, and to an army of occupying Nazis. Those who used these terms were not laymen hut priests, even hishops. Their views would be shared

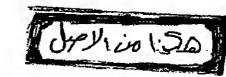
by two of the three most senior bishops: the Archbisbop of York, Dr David Hope, and the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, both of whom against both women in the Court of Session in Edinburgh. have been appointed since the General Synod voted in No-

vember 1992 to ordain women. Meanwhile, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, bas called some opponents of female priests "heretics". He later withdrew the remark, but it does seem to represent his opinion of those who hold that a woman can never be a priest, including the Rt Rev Edwin Barnes, who called at the weekend for a campaign

to repeal the 1992 legislation. All this is the sour fruit of a compromise hastily assembled af-ter the Synod vote. The official doctrine is now that some women are priests, but no one has to believe even that women can be priests. The consequence is b

oth sides feel betrayed. So far, 1500 women have been ordained as priests. Yet stories from all over the country show that the women have the greatest difficulty finding jobs.

The opponents of female priests are organised by Forward in Faith, whose chairman, Fr John Broadburst, over the weekend compared his enemies to a Nazi occupying army.



This issue remained contentious have ruled out the future use of western and southern Bosnia. In

armed force in pursuit of his-

toric Serb national goals.
It is more likely that they view

the wars of 1991-95 as one

more chapter in the almost

200-year history of the national

effort to bring all Serbs into a

single state. This effort went cat-

astrophically wrong last Au-

gust with the climination of the

Krajina Serb community of Croatia, but the establishment

of a Bosnian Serb political unit

covering half of Bosnia is breed-

ing hope that one day this area

For its part, Croatia believes it has unfinished business in

castern Slavonia and possibly in

can be merged with Serbia.

difficult because each delegation feared it had more to lose than

Herzegovinan Croats would much rather be absorbed into a Greater Croatian state than

those areas, ultra-nationalist

stay part of Bosnia's Muslim-

The Ohio negotiations were

Croat federation.

it does not augur welt.

victor and left all three combatants with an even stronger

to win by talking peace. This was perhaps inevitable after a war that failed to produce a clear-cut

sense of justice on their side than when they started fighting. But Tony Barber

50 miles **SERBIA**

Planned Nato deployments or Peace Implementation

be exchanges of territory, it has been assumed that the areas of coorrol will oot change greatly. Geo Walker's headquarters will be in Sarajevo, possibly at the Olympic stadium though that will require much further work before it is ready to receive

the 2,500-strong corps headquarters and supporting troops. The US 1st Armoured Divisioo, based at Grafenwohr in

Germany, will move in via Hungary with two brigades of tanks and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles and a brigade of Apache attack helicopters to monitor the oorthern area. based at Tuzla.

The French 6th Division. hased at Mostar, will be responsible for the south east of the country, including Sarajevo. The headquarters of the British 3rd Division commanded by Major General Mike Jacksoo will be at Gornji Vakuf, an area familiar to the British from three years as UN peace-

throughout the Ohio talks.

The dissatisfaction of the

three sides stems from a feeling

in each camp that it may still be

possible to gain more from fight-

ing than from peace, if not now

ticularly true for the Muslims and

Croats, who turned the military

tables on the Serbs in dramatic

fashion last summer and believe

they could have pressed on to a

convincing victory.

Mr Milosevic has a more

pressing interest in peace, since

Serbia to be lifted. But this is not

to say that either he or Serb

leaders in Bosnia and Croatia

Main areas of contention at peace conference

had to work on the basis of the

present areas of control. Al-

though there were expected to

CROATIA

should cause UN sanctions on

then in years to come. This is par-

Ohio talks: A settlement might end the fighting but with all three factions harbouring doubts over territory, it might not end the war

Bosnian leaders still balk at compromise

A bad peace is better than a war. posed settlement a bad one. said Bosnia's outgoing Foreign Minister, Muhamed Sacirbey, last weekend. However, the question on everyone's mind at the Ohio talks on former Yugoslavia was whether the peace settlement taking shape was so bad that it might simply lead to another war some time in the

All three delegations - the Serbs, the Croats and the Muslim-led Bosnian government made it clear during the three weeks of negotiations that they had serious reservations about the concessions they were being asked to make. Each had its reasons for considering the pro-

The Muslims, doubtful that the deal would succeed in keeping Bosnia a united state in its pre-war borders, wanted stronger powers for the central government in Sarajevo than the settlement envisaged. They were also angry at having to accept Bosnian Serb control of almost all eastern Bosnia,

especially the former United Nations-protected "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa.
The Serbs disliked the fact that the settlement restored Sarajevo as a united city, with free movement of people in all areas. They wanted central Bosnian institutions to have

even less power than was outlined in the settlement, doubtless so that the Bosnian Serb zone - occupying 49 per cent of the republic - could establish the closest possible ties with Ser-

As for the Bosnian Croats, they were outraged at the suggestion that they should cede Bosanska Posavina, a Croat-populated piece of land in northern Bosnia, in order to accommodate the Serbs' demands for a wider corridor linking their two slabs of territory in Bosnia. In a letter to the chief US negotiator, Richard Holbrooke, the Bosnian Croat leader, Kresimir Zubak, com-

cluded from oegotiations on the maps and described the proposed settlement as "not satisfyiog even the most basic criteria of a just peace".

Ironically, the surrender of Posavina in exchange for more land for the Croats in western Bosnia was a proposal said to have originated in talks between Crootia's President, Franjo Tudjman, and Serbia's President, Slobodan Miloscvic. With their eyes fixed on the wider Balkan picture, these two men have never flinched at the prospect of sacrificing certain interests of their respective clients in Bosnia.

plained that he had been ex- Milosevic could not be entirely pleased with the compromises being hammered out at a military base in the American Mid-West. One important agreement allows Scrbs to stay in the Croatian region of eastern Slavonia, but it is difficult to believe that Mr Tudiman really wants peo-ple who launched an armed revolt against his rule in 1991 to

> keep a footbold on Croatian soil. Mr Milosevic is known to have protested at the insis-tence of the US - and the Bosnian government - that UN-indicted war criminals, including the chief Bosnian Serb should stand trial in The Hague.

> The Nato plan divides the Bosnian pie ioto three roughly equal segments cutting across the present front lines between

the warring factions.

In the first fortnight, the

"enabling force" of about 2,000

headquarters staff from all Nato's 16 countries will arrive

in Bosnia by air. They will in-

clude staff officers, signals

troops, and engineers to set up

the expanded headquarters

needed by the force. Then the

Nato corps commander, British

Lieutenant General Mike Walker, will arrive in Sarajevo and take over command from the UN Protection Force, probably

At this time, those UN troops

already in Bosnia who are being "converted" to Nato status

will swap blue helmets for Nato camouflage. It will take anoth-

er three months for the rest of the 60,000 to reach former Yu-

goslavia and deploy along either

side of a four kilometre-wide de-

militarised zone between the

been complicated because they

have not known exactly how the

territory will be divided be-

tween the Serbs and the Mus-

lim-Croat federation in the

peace settlement. They have

The Nato planners' job has

former warring factions.

in early December.

How Nato force will attempt to police the deal

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

The first Nato troops of the peace implementation force for Bosnia should be on their way immediately a peace agree-ment is reached. But it will take more than three months for the whole, 60,000-strong force to arrive. The plan is for them to remain for a year, though that could be extended.

The force will operate differently from the UN, which went into Bosnia to escort humanitariao aid and got out of the way when the local parties attacked each other. Nato's role will be to keep the warring sides apart, by force if necessary. It will have more "robust" rules of engagement allowing it to open fire if of the local parties breaks the ceasefire.

It is boped there will be a twomile wide demilitarised zone betweeo the sides, although that will take time to establish, with Nato units deployed at key junctions and vantage points. However, the peace line will stretch for more than 600 miles across some of the steepest and most difficult country in Europe so, unlike the UN force, the Nato troops will make extensive use of helicopters.

Security Council set to lift sanctions

DAVID USBORNE

The United Nations Security Council was ready yesterday to begin unravelling the sanctions in place against all sides in the Yugoslav conflict when and if a peace agreement emerged from peace talks in Dayton, Ohio.

A first resolution was aimed at suspending indefinitely the economic sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro at the start of the war in 1992.

Also on the table was a res olution ending the arms emhargo against the Bosnian government. Manoeuvres in the Security Council were being choreographed with the progress in Dayton. A first meeting to consider the two texts was held on Sunday evening, well before the out-come of the peace talks was

By signalling the willingness of the UN to lift sanctions. Washingtoo may have been looking to generate additional incentives for the governments of Serbia and Bosnia to overcome last-minute obstacles in

Daytoo and sign the accord. The economic sanctions against Serbia would be suspended instantly and indefi-nitely on the signing of the peace agreement, diplomats said, although they could be reimposed just as quickly if Belgrade failed fully to honour it. All sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs would remain until it was firmly established that its forces had withdrawn behind "zones of separation" laid out m the peace plan. The suspension of the arms embargo on the Bosnians would be phased over

The ban on the supply of heavy weapons would be the last to be lifted at the end of the sixmonth period.

Because of procedural rules, neither of the two resolutions could be formally adopted un-

A peace deal would also oblige the Security Council to consider winding up the the UN's peace-keeping mission.n the former Yugoslavia and handing over to the planned



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'Moses of left' vows to lead Poles to unity

ADRIAN BRIDGE

Aleksander Kwasniewski, the surprise victor yesterday in Poland's presidential election. has been called many things in his time. To Lech Walesa, the man he defeated, he is simply a "Bolshevik". To members of his own reformed Communist party, he is the "Moses of the Left". His friends call him "Olek". And pretty soon he bet-ter get used to "Mr President". With counting almost com-

plete, official returns showed that Mr Kwasniewski had captured 51.7 per cent of the vote compared to Mr Walesa's 48.3 per cent. The narrow margin un-derlined the extent to which Poland remains divided between Communism (or its successors) and Solidarity which toppled it in 1989.

Mr Kwasniewski, sports minister in the last Communist government and who now describes himself as a social democrat, wasted no time in lay the past aside. 'Our task can only be carried out if we all work together," he told ecstatic supporters. "Our aim has to be national reconciliation and unity."

The appeal echoed Mr Kwasniewski's slogan, "Let's Choose 1977 until it dissolved itself in

a chord with younger voters whose memories of the old regime have faded and who rallied firmly to his cause. The President-elect, himself

41, hailed his young followers as "our greatest chance and our greatest hope". But he will have a tough battle gaining any acceptance among the sup-porters of Mr Walesa, a man who built his career on battling Communists and who sees Mr Kwasniewski as the incarnation of everything he opposed.

In what became an increasingly bitter campaign, Mr Walesa repeatedly charged that Mr Kwasniewski was incapable of changing his Communist spots and that his victory would mean Poland falling into the clutches of "a clique of old comrades linked in a 'Red Spiderweb'."

In a warning shot of battles to come, the defence, foreign and interior ministers - all Walesa appointees - signalled that they would be packing their bags. "I respect the outappealing to his countrymen to come of democratic elections." said Władysław Bartoszewski, the Foreign Minister, "but I do not accept a single-party system which is now approaching."

Although he was a member of the Communist Party from

the Future" and it clearly struck 1990, Mr Kwasniewski says he was too young and junior to have been involved in anything too unsavoury. He defends his decision to remain in the par-ty after the declaration of martial law in 1981 on the grounds he wanted to help reform it.

In 1989, he was one of the government representatives at the Round Table talks with Soliderity that paved the way to the first partially free elections in eastern Europe for over 40

Intelligent, articulate and attractive, Mr Kwasniewski emerged as the natural leader of the Democratic Left Al-liance (SLD) that sprung from the ashes of the old Communist party in 1990. Under his lead-ership, moreover, he and the party have never looked back. In 1993, campaigning on a

of economic transformation, it romped to victory in parliamentary elections. With Mr Kwasniewski's triumph in the presidential election, the party has almost come full circle. Mr Walesa, whose abrasive style alienated many of his former friends and allies, is now

likely to try to unite the hope-

lessly divided centre and right

preparation for fresh

ticket of softening the hardships

Warsaw wave: Ex-Communist Aleksander Kwasniewski, with his wife, Jolanta, acknowledges the cheers of his supporters as it becomes clear he is to be the new President of Polend Photograph: Peter Andrews/Reuter

New SPD leader courts former Communists

IMRE KARACS

A wink from Germany's largest opposition party to the heirs of the Communist regime in the east has shattered the biggest taboo in national politics, sig-nificantly shortening the odds on

a future left-wing government. The initiative comes from Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrats' new leader. Yesterday he indicated for the first time that the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the successors to East Germany's rulers, should no longer be treated like a leper colony. "We must give everya chance to our democracy," Mr Lafontaine

He had already announced that he would meet the PDS leader, Gregor Gysi. In yesterday's statement he spelled out his reason bluntly: "Despite all the friction ... there is a majority for the left-wing camp."

Though that majority eludes them in the present parliament, opinion polls show that the combined forces of Social Democrats, Greens and the PDS could outgun the conser-vative coalition if elections were held tomorrow. The Greens Democrats improved by six points when they ditched their Dalek-like leader. Rudolf Scharping, at last week's party

conference. But such arithmetic takes no account of the inevitable hacklash among Mr Lafontaine's voters. Revulsion towards the PDS is universal in the western part of the country, but especially palpable among the Social Democrats. Contacts between MPs from the two parties are non-existent, and when politicians do appear together occaially on lelevision, the Soc Democrats squirm at the sight of their would-be comrades from the east.

Their loathing is shared by most of the voters. Though the PDS has repudiated the regime of Erich Honecker and distanced itself from his henchmen, many of its politicians now in parliament were small cogs in the wheel of East Germany's

machine of oppression. Reminders of the East's legacy are omnipresent. Should they forget, Germans are about to be treated to a large dose of the evils of the past, as six mem-

and the PDS have gained voters since last year's general elec-tions, and the struggling Social refugees fleeing to the West. refugees fleeing to the West. Egon Krenz, the last general secretary of the ruling party, and his five colleagues are charged with ordering the shoot-to-kill policy, a crime for which only humble border guards have gone to jail

> But if the PDS has an image problem, it has done its leaders no harm in the east. Its recent successes, particularly in last month's regional elections. when it contributed to a heavy Social Democrat defeat, are the main reason Mr Lafontaine seeks an accommodation. Despite an u ng in the ea economy, left-wing voters there seem less inclined than ever to conform to western political tastes. The Social Democrats and the Greens are making no headway as their natural base is eaten away by the PDS.

Until now, the Social Democrat tactic in the east was to ignore the PDS, hoping it will fade away. That is not going to hap-pen, so Mr Lafontaine must find a new tack. But conferring respectability on post-Communists will only enhance their standing and may further erode the Social Democrat vote.

Greek PM in intensive care

ANDREW GUMBEL

Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, was rushed into intensive care at Athens's leading heart hospital yesterday, sounding alarm bells about his failing health and adding a dramatic new element to the acrimomous debate about his succession.

A spokesman at the Onassis Health Centre said that the 76year-old founder of the Greek socialist movement, who has a history of heart disease, has pneumonia, but his condition is said to be under control.

Other reports suggested that he was also suffering from se-

vere stomach pains.

Mr Papandreou underwent a triple bypass operation in 1988 and was fitted with an artificial valve in his heart. He has been m and ont of hospital with cardiac problems ever since.

Since returning to power for third term as Prime Minister in 1993, he has looked so frail that many politicians and political observers, including those inside his own Pasok party, suspect he is no longer able to cope with his workload.

His refusal to discuss his future, either before or after the next general elections due in 1997, and his increasing re-liance on his young wife Minni, who heads his private office, have provoked a serious split within Pasok and the formation of an internal opposition movement that has been increasingly vocal in its criticisms.

His government has suffered from a flurry of resignations and reshuffles in the past few...

Mrs Papandreou was by her husband's side as he was driven : off to hospital yesterday morning, just as she has followed him every step of the way since hursting into the limelight as his mistress during the 1989 general: election campaign.

Mr Papandreou has always naintained that she saved his life and gave him the strength to keep going, but the Pasok dissidents have accused her of abusing her position to filter access to the Prime Minister, foster a private clique of court favourites, and cultivate her own political ambitions.

The announcement three, months ago that she intended to run for parliament provoked a violent backlash, including the publication in tabloid newspapers of old photos of her sun-



Conservatives gain in Catalan poll

Madrid — Catalonia's veteran nationalist leader, Jordi Pujol, has been unexpectedly stripped of the absolute majority he had enjoyed in the regional parlia-ment since 1984 after voters punished him for his pact with Felipe Gonzalez's scandal-ridden Socialist government in Madrid, writes Elizabeth Nash.

Mr Pujol's Convergence and Union (CiU) party, whose share of the vote in Sunday's regional election dropped from 46.2 to 41 per cent, remains, with 60 seats, the favourite among Cat-alonia's 5 million voters. The conservative People's Party (PP) won 13.1 per cent and increased its strength in the Catalan parliament from seven to 17 seats, despite a campaign that made few concessions to regional sensibilities.

The PP is now the third force

pro-independence Republican Left (ERC). More importantly, it has made the breakthrough in hostile terrain that could deliver a decisive advantage in

national elections due in March The Catalan Socialists, with 24.8 per cent, fell back slightly from 46 seats to 34, but avoided the collapse that was widely predicted in the opinion polls. It was Mr Pujol who paid the heaviest price for supporting Mr Gonzalez

The PP's leader, Jose Maria Aznar, who played a prominent role in the campaign, is now expected to put out friendlier feelers to Mr Pujol's party. The PP is favoured to win March's general elections, but may need CiU support to rule. Mr Pujol's setback on Sunday makes it all the more likely that the next The PP is now the third force government in Madrid will be in Catalonia, supplanting the a conservative one.

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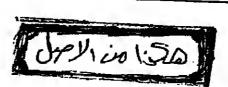
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EU rejects call for oil embargo on Nigeria

SARAH HELM and STEVE CRAWSHAW

reek Min tensin

The European Union yesterday rejected calls for an oil emhargo against Nigeria – even while South Africa pressed for a stronger penalties against the

European foreign ministers agreed to an arms embargo and a series of less drastic penalties

Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others this month. Germany joined Sweden in supporting the imposition of an oil blockade but other member states called for a more cautious approach, deciding that further measures needed more examination.

In a statement, the 15 memher states confirmed their commitment to maintain measures taken against Nigeria in 1993,

tary cooperation and visa restrictions for members of military and security forces.

Strengthening the 1993 sanctions, the EU yesterday agreed to add new visa restrictions against civilian leaders in the Nigerian ruling council and federal executive committee and their families. The arms embargo covers all weapons de-

ment. It also covers spare parts, repairs, maintenance and transfer of military technology.

In South Africa, the secretary-general of the African Nunonal Congress, Cyril Ramaphosa, claimed that Britain was planning a freeze on assets and was "considering" an oil embargo. British officials were keen to downplay these ter. Lena Hjelm-Wallen, also casigned to kill, and ammunition, possibilities, however, saying pressed support for the oil

in response to the execution of including a suspension of mili- weapon platforms and equip- that "we are not on to that yet", embargo - but acknowledged nounced, last month. Mr Man-At yesterday's meeting in that there was little support for Brussels, Klaus Kinkel, the Ger- the idea. "We are not satisfied, man Foreign Minister, expressed support for lougher measures. "I favour an oil embargo and a freeze of assets be-

Nigeria," he said. The Swedish Fureign Minis-

that would probably impress

and want to go further," she said

after the meeting. South Africa, whose moral voice now perhaps counts for cause these are the measures most of all, has notably toughened its stance from President Nelson Mandela's softly-softly approach, when the death sentence on Saro-Wiwa and the eight others was first an-

dela yesterday called for a re- py" at Shell's decision. gional summit of southern African leaders to discuss forther measures to he taken

against the military regime. Carl Niehaus, a member of said that Shell's decision to press on with its huge new nat-"deeply disappointing". Mr Ramaphosa said that he was

President Mandela vesterday met the chairman of Shell South Africa, John Drake, Mr Nichaus said that Mr Mandela had "ruised very strongly the the ANC national executive, need for Shell to show its outrage about what was happening in Nigeria and then to place ural-gas project in Nigeria was pressure on the Nigerian regime because of the eco-

Tigers battle to the last in Jaffna

TIM McGIRK

After a month of lighting the Tamil Tigers, thousands of Sri Lankan troops yesterday advanced into the rebel city of Jaffna. A military spokesman in Colombo, however, said the government forces were one and a half miles from Jaffna's centre and had run into stiff re-

sistance from the Tigers. Even before the Sri Lankan army began its final assault on Jaffna, this was already a city disfigured by war. Two previous onslaughts against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam (LTTE)

- first by Sri Lankan forces in 1987 and then by Indian peacekeepers in 1990 - had ravaged the old colonial town.

Shells, bombs and mortar rounds had blown the heads off statues and ripped the wings off stone angels. Churches and once-grand libraries were destroyed; they look like bleached shipwrecks beside the glimmering Jaffna lagoon, Now, Sri Lanka's second-largest city is being convulsed by another round of destruction.

The defence minister, Anuruddha Ratwatte, said: "The Tigers are destroying the town, knowing that they will soon lose it to us." Officials claim that over 320 soldiers have died so far in the assault while the rebels have lost more than 1,500 men.

the talks on the side of the effective power".

asking for a limited swap," an official said.

Guerrillas offer to swap sick captives

Islamabad - Pakistan said it detained 13 Egyptian Islamic preach-

ers after a suspected suicide bombing at the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad that killed 15. The Interior Minister, Nascerullah

Babar, said police had detained the men for questioning as they

Tel Aviv - Yîtzhak Rabin's assassin was trained as a guard by the Shin Bet security service in 1992, shooting with pistols at the

agency's firing range and attending lectures on protection prac-

tices, the Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot reported yesterday. The un-

confirmed report came as the confessed gumman, Yigal Amir, said

in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court that he acted alone and that he

were leaving after attending religious conventions.

had tried several times to kill the prime minister.

Rabin assassin 'trained by Shin Bet'

government troops vesterday captured a key junction at Nal-lur, a 400-year-old Hindu temple surrounded by houses and

coconut groves. A military spokesman said 24 soldiers were killed along with 145 rebels when the government forces overran the Tamil Tiger hunkers. However, a communique issued by the LTTE claimed that 52 soldiers died in

the fighting. To slow the Sri Lankan advance, the Tiger rebels laid booby-traps so that the houses hlew up when soldiers stepped inside. The explosions then allowed the rebels to mortar the oncoming troops with lethal accuracy. Officials said that by yesterday afternoon, the gov-ernment troops had thrust in, forcing the rebels to flee from the Hindu temple crossroads.

In Colombo, Sri Lankan of-ficials claim that Jaffna may fall within the next 48 hours. But the army's victory may be more symbolic than practical. Apart from the rebels, there may be only one soul left behind in Jaffna: a Catholic bishop who has refused to leave his mission.

The rest of the city's 300,000 inhahitants fled the Sri Lankan offensive and are huddled in refugee camps at the far end of the Jaffna peninsula. The Tigers are trying to prevent Tamil civilians returning to areas now Backed by tanks, artillery under government control. The a hrilliant tactician, one who be-

harrages and air power, the "Vnice of the Tigors" radio yesterday ordered refugees, hungry and feverish after three weeks of monsoon rains, to flee to the mainland, which is still under control of the Tiger chief, Vellupillai Prahakharan, The rebel strategy is to let the gov-ernment conquer the land but

not its people.

The LTTE is fighting for an independent homeland in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka for the Tamils who are ethnically different from the majority of Sri Lankans, the Sinhalese. Since 1990 the Tigers have ruled Jaffna as a separate country, with their own courts. taxes, schools, postal service and rebel army led by squads of fanatical suicide commandos.

Some of the moderate Tamil parties in Colombo are urging Sri Lanka's President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, to declare a ceasefire against the Tigers, but the generals are counselling her to crush them. One pro-government daily, The Island, commented yesterday: "The only way out is to de-fang or kill the Tiger." To that end, a reward of a \$50,000 (£32,250) reward has been offered for anyone who tells the army where the clusive Mr Prabakharan is hiding.

Vanquishing the Tamil Tigors is not easy, even when the Sri Lankan army conquers Jaffna. As a guerrilla leader, Mr Prabakharan is reckoned to be



On the attack: Sri Lankan troops fire a mortar as they step up their assault on Tamil Tiger forces around Jaffna yesterday

guiles his commandos - many of them teenaged boys and girls with propaganda on the nobility of dying in combat.
The Sri Lankan forces are

finding out that trying to defeat the Tigers is like trying to hold water in a fist; as the government advances into Jaffna, the Tigers are vanishing into the jungles along the castern coast. On Sunday, Tigers attacked an army patrol and killed 38 soldiers near Banticaloa, hundreds of miles from Jaffna.

Clinton claims IN BRIEF FIS willing to talk peace with Zeroual win in budget Paris - Only days after Liamine Zeroual was elected President of Algeria, the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said yesday it was prepared to discuss with him a peaceful settle

to the country's bloody civil strife. Rabah Kebir, the exiled FIS leader in Europe, said that the Muslim fundamentalist movement regarded Mr Zeroual as the de facto power in the country. In the clearest indication so far that FIS accepted direct talks with him, RUPERT CORNWELL he added: "Mr Zeroual is certainly the valid negotiator to lead

Hundreds of thousands of US Priebke leaves to face trial in Rome government employees were hack at work yesterday, after a Bariloche, Argentina - The former SS captain, Erich Priebke stop-gap hudget compromise between the Democratic White left for Rome to stand trial for his participation in a Second World War massacre of 335 civilians. The 62-year-old Mr Priebke was accompanied by Interpol officers and a military doctor. House and the Republican

Congress on Sunday, which left the basic conflict unresolved. Hardly had the House and New Delhi — Indian officials confirmed that separatist guerrillas Senate agreed on a "continuing resolution" to fund governholding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir offered to free two sick captives in exchange for a jailed militant. 'It is true they are ment until 15 December than the search was on for winners and losers in the face-off that shut down the federal govern-Pakistan holds Egyptian bomb suspects ment for six days, the longest

such closure in history. For Republicans, there was the satisfaction of nailing President Bill Clinton down to a seven-year target date to balance the hudget on the basis of figures provided by the Congressional Budget Office, rather than by the White House's office, with its long

record of cooking the books. ·Mr Clinton, however, claims the Republicans blinked first, by agreeing that any final agree-ment will contain "adequate funding" to protect the feder-al health schemes Medicare and Medicaid, the environment and education. The White House says if the agreement does not measure up to these goals, Mr Clinton will simply wield his veto again. If the public continues to hlame Congress

for the shambles, the prospect will make Republicans shudder. By extending funding until 15 December, the two sides have given themselves four weeks to

blame game towards a halanced hudget in decades. Half hidden by the name-calling of the last few days

is a genuine prospect of a hipartisan understanding that would eliminate a deficit that reached \$160bn (£105bn) by the year ending 30 September. To make that leap, the White House and Congress will have to make concessions in the

hard bargaining that will begin after this week's Thanksgiving hotiday, once Mr Clinton has received, and vetoed the current Republican bill mapping the route to a halanced hudget with \$1,000bn of spending cuts over seven years. To produce a version that

finds the President's favour, the Republicans will be forced to scale down a planned \$245bm of tax reductions, a risky step for both Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole. For the Speaker, backing

down on tax cuts could cost him dear with the ideologicallydriven Republicans who are his most devoted followers Senator Dole, uneasy frontrunner in the chase for next year's nomination, must avoid anything that suggests he is not a true believer in the "Republican revolution" set in motion by the party's victory in 1994. Mr Clinton seems well ahead

in the hlame game. His spirited defence of Medicare appeals strongly to older Americans, who vote in larger numbers than other age groups. Polls show that hy 49 to 27 per cent the public holds Republicans responsible for the impasse, and in a White House match-up, the



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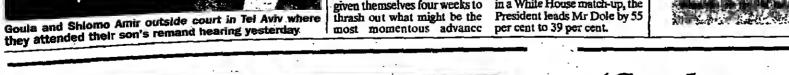
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Moscow's man escapes Chechen bomb attack

PHIL REEVES Moscow

Russia received a reminder yesterday that the Chechnya conflict could again descend into war when an attempt was made to blow up the Moscow-appointed head of the republic

by bombing his motorcade. Doku Zavgayev is the third Kremlin-backed official to be the target of an apparent assassination attempt within two months in Chechnya, where threats of a fresh outbreak of bostilities have escalated because of Russia's plans to hotd elections there. Mr Zavgayev, appointed as Chechnya's chief executive less than a month ago, escaped with minor injuries af-ter a remote-control bomb went off near his motorcade as it swept through Grozny. Officials

said that six people were hurt. At about the same time, a convoy carrying aides to President Yeltsin's envoy to Chechnya, Oleg Lobov, came under

unhurt when his convoy was

Russia's military comman der in Chechnya, Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, is still in a coma after a similar attack six weeks ago.

The violence is further evidence that a political solution to the conflict is remote. The latest sticking-point is Mr Yeltsin's order that elections should be held in Chechnya on 17 De-cember, when Russia goes to the polls to vote for the Duma, or lower house of parliament.

Mr Yeltsin wants elections to lend legitimacy to Russia's Moscow sent in troops, tanks, and bombers to snuff out its bid for independence.

Chechen separatist leaders say Chechen voters ought only vote after the Russians withdraw, and following an agreement on Chechnya's status. They have vowed to treat

absent. In October he escaped Yeltsin's demand for elections has been approved by the Moscow-backed Chechen gov-ernment, although the timing has alarmed some Russian negotiators. Mr Lobov hinted yesterday that the elections may be postnoned.

Posts up for grabs include Mr Zavgayev's job as regional chief executive, although he is so far the only contender for the joh. Mr Yeltsin hopes that if Chechens vote him into office. it will bolster a power-sharing agreement Moscow wants him to sign, which falls short of granting Chechnya independence. Mr Yeltsin said yester control of the republic, where day he was "extremely worried at least 30,000 died after by the rising wave of terrorism" day he was "extremely worried in Chechnya. Fire fights, shelling, and even air raids, continue; in one three-day period this month, 16 Russian sol-

diers were reportedly killed. Mr Yeltsin's concern is understandable: the war in is unpopular in Russia and any flare-up before the elections



Cold wind of capitalism whips around the 'babushki'

Every so often, I return home from work to find nothing in the refrigerator beyond a stump of bread (kept there to avoid cockroaches), a jar of English mus-tard (inherited from a colleague), and some elderly pickled gherkins (another heirloom j. Apart from the absurdly expensive 24-hour supermarket, the local shops have closed. It's

time to visit the old ladies. They usually sit near the street corner, wrapped in scarves and old coats, by the en- flakes, scraping snow off their trance of a dingy grocery store. Each one displays, spread before her on an upturned crate. four or five grocery items, pur-chased in the hope of reselling they said. Unlike the sur-

frankfurters, a lump of wax-like Russian cheese and some unsalted Finnish hutter, all for around \$5 (£3.25).

The last time I went to the babushki in search of supper, I hardly expected to find them: the cityscape had been reduced to a grey hlur by a snowstorm. Yet there they were, huddled silhouettes in the darkness, their eyebrows crusted with produce. I asked if it wasn't too cold to be outside. They shrugged, and seemed uncon-

them at a small profit. My best rounding shops and restan-haul comprised eight American rants, which generally regard clients as a nuisance, they seem to have grasped the barsher tenets of capitalism.

> No one knows how many old people take to selling on the streets to supplement the pension, which now averages \$47 a month, but they run into thousands in Moscow alone. The handful of women who work the patch near my apartment are but a tiny fraction of the pathetic crowds of old people who stand in long, silent, lines outside metro stations in central Moscow, holding out bottles of vodka, cigarettes, loaves of

of making a few roubles from passing commuter. Nor do

times you see them trying to sell kittens, snakes, puppies, birds, even tortoises. concern about the weather reflects a separate phenomenon, which seems to be peculiar to Russians. Even though Moscow hang from the eaves, there is a "sniffily, "Not cold enough." the winter - the annual five or couple of milder days after his bread, and dried fish in the hope six months of refrigerated prognosis, but his general the- about what is and what is not

MOSCOW DAYS

gloom - has actually begun. "Still autumn," said my Russian they stick to groceries; somecolleague, Pavel, on the first day the streets were buried, several weeks ago. He looked contemptuously out of the window But the old women's lack of at a grove of snow-laden silver hirches: "This is just the first snow. It will melt." After a

week of more snow and belowfreezing temperatures, I asked now lies beneath a white cov- him again whether winter had ering, and even though icicles "arrived. "Not really," he said, reluctance here to admit that To be fair, there were a

set of alarming statistics, recently released by Moscow's Department of Health.

At least 25 people have frozen to death on the city's streets since the snows began, and hundreds more have ended up in hospital with hypothermia. Officials say they were drunk, a claim that becomes more plausible when you consider that the nation is engaged on a drinking binge of awesome proportions; a Russian adult now consumes an average of half a pint of vodka a day, or its

Yet, for all their snobbery

ory has been blown apart by a Real Winter, Muscovites do not let it affect their clothing. During the (real) autumn they plodded around in dismal hlacks and browns, about as pleasing to the eye as the leftovers from an English rural

jumble sale. When the first dusting of snow arrived, they emerged on the streets like a parade of well-fed tabby cats, wrapped in long, sensual, morally indefensible furs. Only the Moscow traffic police maintained a doggedly autumnal posture; by tradition, they refuse to lower the ear flaps of their fur hats until temperatures reach -20C.

The anti-fur lobby has a long

most Russians, who know that a fur hat can do far more to resurrect a face ravaged by bad dentistry and heavy drinking than any amount of Western cosmetics or surgery - and are

willing to splash out.

Some of the coats among this array of sables, Arctic fox, raccoon pelts and minks are so valuable that they have to be transported to Moscow by armed convoy from the Far East and Central Asia. It is only a shame that, as they sit by their crates in the snow, the babushki never get to wear them:

Phil Reeves



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The Poles have deposed Lech Walesa and shown solidarity with an ex-Communist. It could be a rough ride, warns Neal Ascherson

After the Great Electrician, more shocks

the lights went out on the Great Electrician when Sunday's presidential election in Poland brought defeat to Lech Walesa. For 15 years, since he created Solidarity in the Gdansk shipyard strike, he has been the decisive personality in his own country: as union leader, as prisoner, as leader of the mass political movement that nverthrew Communism in 1989, as president of the republic since 1990. Now his own compatriots have rejected him, by a narrow marin, and the Walesa show - for the moment - is over.

Before Sunday's run-off election, one of the Polish hishops burst out that Poland would make itself scandalous and the laughing-stock of the world if this intensely Catholic country elected an ex-Communist "enemy of the Church" as president. But it is always unwise to lecture Poles from on high. They went and elected Aleksander Kwasniewski, junior minister in the last Polish Communist government within the Soviet empire, as head of state of the nation whose crest is a white eagle wearing the crown of the Madonna. Queen of Poland. And the world is not

For some Poles, this result must seem a catastrophe. It is not just that the post-Communists, who already dominate the government, now hold the presidency as well. Neither is it only the fear (groundless, on the evidence so far) that they will steer Poland back into some subordinate relationship with Russia. It is, rather, that the nation will be divided and polarised. In one camp will be the great pro-Western forces of traditional Catholic patriotism of which - in spite of countless quarrels and disillusions - Lech Walesa was a member. These forces will now be voiceless, or at least without any foothold in authority. Triumphant in the other camp will be godless modernisers and Marxists, placemen from the old Communist bureaucracy and traitors secretly in league with a reviving Russian Empire.

But this is not how the real split ran. Workers and small peasants voted about equally for Kwasniewski and Walesa in the first round on 6 November. So it was not about class - but neither was it much to do with faith or ideology. Kwasniewski's vote came from medium and small towns, from the northern and western regions annexed from Germany in 1945, and from the young and those with higher education. Walesa's supporters, in contrast, tended to live in the big cities and in the traditionalist south-east of Poland, to be older and to lack further education. Lech Walesa tried to turn the campaign into

Parliamentary elections Neo-communist 32,6% vote as % of total 27.7% 1994 **FSND: Democratic** MSZP: Hungarian SLD: Democratic PDS: Party of Democratic Left Socialist Party **National Salvation Front**

BULGARIA Carlot and the same of

munists and patriots. But it ment in an effort to purge Sunday was that a man so was nothing of the kind, and those who questioned his caratic was not right for the

politics and to deprive Presi-

dent Walesa of any solid and

reliable block of support in

parliament or outside it. His

spectacular ham-handedness

over constitutional change and

the political command of the

most Poles knew it. This was a authority; the result was to split social struggle, between an the whole centre-right of Polish

political. In 1990, before his armed forces also alienated

MECKLENBURG ROMANIA

(AN EAST GERMAN LAND)

international bankers would wish. In negotiating a new constitution, including a definition powers, Kwasand government are wellniewski may well show more caution and tact in dealing with political opposition and pusb ahead with getting Poland into Nato and the the Catholic church than Wa-

lesa would have done. And yet this election result still leaves a queasy feeling. Superficially, it poses no obvipeople. But the perception which probably pushed most waverers to vote against him on on the face of things, ous threat to the five-year-old democracy, promises no striking turn in policy. But it is an

odd outcome for Poland. Another period of "cobabitation" - of sbarp political congovernment - might have given a better picture of the passionate divisions in Polisb opinion, After all, this was a very close result, and now the the political nation, including many of the new capitalist class - have lost all central

"winner takes all" electoral system. But Poles are more explosive, and less easily reconciled to imprience.

A second problem is Lech Walesa himself. In the past, he used to talk expansively about how happy he would be to tay down his hurden, when Poland no longer required him, and go fishing with his tribe of children. In practice, there is some danger that Walcsa will find rejection impossible to accept and will accuse history of not baving learnt its lines

properly.
His idol Jozef Pilsudski, who dominated Poland between the wars, "retired" to his country house at Sulejowek but used it as a centre of intrigue which made Poland almost ungovernable. If Walcsa set up his own Sulejowek (or Colombey-lesdeux-Eglises), it would probahly be a farce. Just possibly however, he could gather round him and unite the scattered forces of barmy, authoritarian. higoted nationalism. The picture of the Great Electrician's return as a messianie "man on a white horse" is not funny at

But, in the end, the danger of Aleksander Kwasniewski's victory is not chaos but its opposite; stagnation, It seems to be true that the younger and more vigorous Poles voted for him, impatient to turn their backs on recent history. They do not want any restoration of pre-1989 Communism, but neither do they want to pick over the rights and wrongs of the 50-year Communist period. The trouble is that recent history is alive and sitting behind many a desk. The victories of Polisb "socialdemocracy" since 1993 have restored old Communist backs to their chairs all over the land, especially at local level. President Kwasniewski may want change and modernity. They do not, and they are sly enough to stay in power.

Post-Communism means different things in different places. With the Czechs, it is the party of state control and unemployed bureaucrats. In eastern Germany, it stands for the defence of regional identities; in Lithuania, for nation-alism with a practical face; in Romania and Serbia, for state despotism in nationalist uniform. Poland, as usual, is different. There, post-Communism means the transition to capitalism at a bumane n

It's a blameless policy. The new young president standing handsome beside his pretty wife seems too American to be true. But Poland's political centre and right - almost half tradition is not at all Americanised, preferring turbulence and collision to beaming consensus. My hunch is that the power. That sort of result is Kwasniewski presidency will familiar in Britain, with our turn into a rough ride.

Diary

One of the more eclectic guest lists for an upstairs room at a west London pub features Lord Grade, Michael Caine, the rock star Bryan Adams and the writer Julie Burchill. What links them is a haze of thick, aromatic smoke.

HUNGARY

impatient, self-reliant Poland

and an older, more deferential

Poland whose values are still

Lech Walesa lost his grip on the

first presidential campaign, Walesa coarsely and brutally turned on the Solidarity move-

nation. Some of them were

There are many reasons why

rooted in history.

They are all cigar smokers, some closet, some not, and have been asked to be founder members of the Havana Room, a club for cigar smokers above the Cow pub, run by Tom, son of Terence, Conran. The coterie is being started by the Comedy Store founder, Peter Rosenguard. He has discovered the joys of fat cigars after smoking (anything) for the first time in his life earlier this year on the birth of his first child.

His wife, whom he describes as "an aggressive, North American anti-smoker", has ordered him and his Havanas out of the house. "I started the Comedy Store because I wanted somewhere to laugh. I'm starting the Havana Room because I want somewhere to smoke," he says.

Those who think that rugby league is a competitive and dirty sport have clearly never been to a supper quiz. Tempers can fray, egos can be brutally damaged and friendships shattered. Even the soap opera EastEnders has featured a number of supper quizzes recently, complete with fisticuffs.

But the antics of Albert Square pale beside a bruising supper quiz which took place at the weekend to raise money for a centre for underprivileged young people based at Turville Heath, near Henley, the home village of John Mortimer and Jeremy Paxman. The two, along with a host of other celebs, including Sinead Cusack and Peter Mandelson MP, took part in the quiz. Paxman indeed was quizmaster, but found his audience less respectful than University

Challenge students. He asked for the longest one-word anagram in the English language: "Carthorse and orchestra, stupid," barked Sir Robin Day, having waited eagerly to put his successor in his place, But such banter was good natured compared with what was to follow.

The winning team turned out to be the one led by the bestselling novelists Robert Harris and Nick Hornby. This provoked a near riot, I am told, when angry losers pointed out an ethical dilemma.
The questions had been set by
Gill Hornby, wife of Robert Harris

and sister of Nick. One of the more chagrined was the

writer Henry Porter who had added to his team of Carmen Callil, Christopher Hitchens and Anthony Holden by finding and signing up a former Mastermind winner. Even the dirty tricks brigade at the Queen Vic hadn't thought of that one.

The one intriguing aspect of the launch of the "new" Beatles album vesterday was the first public appearance in 33 years of the man



Old hat? Beatle-man Aspinal

dubbed the fifth Beatle, Neil Aspinall, | murder scene there Don José actually boybood friend of the group, road manager, and now head of Apple drew blood. The German press had a field day the next morning with "Don José Really Stabs Carmen" headlines. Corps. Aspinall has shunned all publicity for three decades, but yesterday, sounding remarkably like George Harrison, he showed he is not

off many viewers, who felt that sation of the economy and its Kwasniewski had a better transformation into a free-

short of a quip. Asked if Yoko Ono had any more Lennon songs in her bottom drawer, he leered mischievously and replied nasally: "Who knows what Yoko Ono bas in her bottom drawer?

erratic was not right for the

presidency. The lurid episodes

feur seemed to be running the

presidency were painful for

Polish dignity. His wildness and

apparent lack of grasp shown in his TV duels with Kwasniewski

on the eve of the election put

One factor above all marked Aspinali out as a Sixties rock star manqué - he wore a blue woolly hat to cover his baldness. While Nineties pop stars such as Right Said Fred and even Sinead O'Connur flaunt baldness as sexy, the Sixties brigade, including John Lennon in his later years, always cover their pates in shame. That a blue woolly hat indoors in the middle of the day might just draw attention to what fab follicles are or are not underneath never

occurs to the true rock veteran.

Breakfasting with Alan Borg, the new director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, he gives his thoughts on the voluntary donations visitors are asked to give. They are "silly" and make people feel "uncomfortable" says the man who clearly prefers compulsory entrance fees. My own alternative to voluntary admission charges is simpler, and has never yet been tried at a museum. Instead of asking people to give money on the way in, ask them to pay on the way out. At least then they can give a verdict on their visit, and presumable will be inspired to give generously if

they have had a good time. One person who might be reluctant to cough up is the chap who told me that "the British art and design galleries are poor, the ceramics galleries are very poorly displayed; the Islamic gallery is appalling". I refer to Dr Borg.

My tale last week about the English National Opera's Carmen in which the diva playing Carmen lost her voice and had to mime to another Carmen on stage, seems to have been trumped since by the Munich Opera. In the caught Carmen with his knife and

Poland and Europe do not

need to worry about President

Kwasniewski. On the main

known and not very contro-

versial. As president, be will

European Union. The privati-

I am delighted to learn that not only did the diva recover the next day but that she behaved like a true opera star and refused to speak to her leading man despite the blandishments of a dozen red roses. Carmen would have been proud of ber.

A new James Bond, Pierce Brosnan, is introduced tomorrow with the première of Goldeneye, with audiences still wondering after all these years how he will shape up against Sean Connery and Roger Moore. But I was interested to learn that the first Brit to play Bond was not Connery but Bob ss, the estimable, avuncular bost of the TV quiz show Blockbusters, who played 907 on the radio in the Fifties. It must have been a blow to him when Saltzman and Broccoli

overlooked him for the film role. Bolness lives near me in Pinner. I see him in the ten rooms sometimes. He may have missed out on the girls and the glamour, but I suspect that taking elevenses in Betjeman country is bow Bond himself would have spent his middle years, the Earl Grey



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The Windsors cannot win

For years this paper eschewed coverage of the Royal Family. But that was in the far-off days when royal coverage was invariably anodyne, deferential and in-consequential. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. For sometime now the Royal Family has been lurching from one embarrassment to the next in a long-running trauma which, with each new incident, threatens to become a fullyfledged crisis of the monarchy fraught with important constitutional implications.

The process has been driven by the young royals and above all the failed marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. With last night's Panorama interview, Princess Diana has intensified the sense of foreboding that now surrounds the House of Windsor. Many people, reflecting on last night's interview and the events of the last two or three years will be asking; where will it end? The answer remains unclear. The Royal Family is beside itself with anger about Diana's publicity putsch. It would dearly like to plunge the knife into her. Already the Palace has been dropping dark hints of revenge, against Diana, even against the BBC for staging the broadcast.

Even in its present weakened state, the power of the Palace should not be underestimated. But the path of revenge would almost certainly end in disaster. It should not be forgotten that this particular phase of the marriage war was initiated by Prince Charles and Jonathan Dimbleby in a par-ticularly ill-judged and short-sighted inter-view. It was a mistake of historic propor-tions. Diana is seeking revenge, Should the Royal Family respond in kind, then she will not stay quiet. She has an insatiable appetite for publicity and is a skilled manipulator of the media. This round will be followed by another and yet another.

This, moreover, is an unequal contest. The Palace may possess the heavier weapons, but these count for little. The

Royal Family has far more to lose than Diana: only her reputation is at stake, for the Royal Family it is Charles's succession, probably more. Each sordid round of this miserable domestic battle serves to diminish the Royal Family. There is another sense in which the Windsors cannot win. Media wars are essentially unpredictable, dan-gerous and fielde. They are creatures of the information society not aristocratic hier-archy. And, dangerously for the Royal Fam-ily, the British like the underdog who, in this situation is surely Princess Di

situation, is surely Princess Di.
The Royal Family brought this state of affairs upon itself when it abandoned cocooned privilege for the role of soap opera and the world of showbiz. It is worth remembering that as recently as 1962, Anthony Sampson wrote in Anatomy of Britain: "The Palace has succeeded in maintaining not only wealth and dignity but also secrecy ... this inaccessibility is the essence of the royal magic: in spite of the hundreds of journalists who have hunted for royal stories, no one yet knows how life is led in the royal palaces." RIP. Once

abandoned there is no return. If the Palace exercises due self-restraint, then it will minimise the damage that Diana's interview will inflict upon it. If, on the other hand, the Palace opts for revenge, then it is likely to hasten a constitutional crisis involving Charles's succession and, more generally, the remaining constitutional and political functions of the monarch. This may happen anyway. In-deed, the process of reform is under way with the Queen's decision to pay income tax and the removal of the minor royals from the Civil List. That is just the beginning. We do need a different kind of mon-archy: smaller, more open, more accountable, less privileged, with a reformed constitutional role. How we get there maiters. Sleaze, dirt, grudge and bickering will do neither family nor nation any good.

The remaking of mice and men

Today, the European Patent Office in Munich will hear the final arguments discomfort, the necessity of such work. about patenting a mouse - the "Harvard Few parents would put shampoo on their Oncomouse" - which has been genetically earlier this week, it became clear that the US government has patented the genes of a tribesman from Papua New Guinea.

These cases are landmarks for humanity's attitude to itself and the rest of the living world. It would be difficult to come up with less appealing standard-bearers than Oncomouse and PNG man for the brave new world of genetic engineering.

In 1984, scientists at the Harvard Medical School stitched "oncogenes" - genes known to provoke the development of cancer - into the DNA of laboratory mice. At first, the university's application to patent its "invention" was turned down: the European Patent Office ruled that animals are naturally occurring life forms which cannot be classed as inventions and so cannot be patented. But Harvard pursued its claim aggressively and in 1992 the EPO granted the Harvard Oncomouse a patent, sparking protest from groups across Europe. Today's appeal will determine whether the patent is confirmed or withdrawn.

This is not a straightforward question of animal welfare. Nearly 3 million animal experiments were performed in British laboratories last year, some of them involving suffering comparable with or exceeding that endured by the oncohaby's hair without knowing that its low toxicity had already been proved.

But the commercial exploitation of animal suffering is different. That a great American university - which ought to be the seat of liberal and enlightened values should be interested in making a fast buck out of marketing an animal predetermined to develop painful tumours indicates that something has gone far wrong with our calculus of moral standards.

The implication is also troubling that, by granting a patent, society can regard living animal as an invention - a hiochemical automaton which humanity can reprogramme as it wishes. Any hiologist will tell you that there is little difference between a mouse and a man - if we regard animals as automata, can we avoid coming to the same conclusions about ourselves? The patenting of DNA from a man in Papua New Guinea, who enjoys a rare immunity to leukaemia, reinforces

that concern. The international hiotechnology industry must, if only in its own interest, reassure us that genetic engineers are sensitive to public concerns as they exercise their new technical powers to alter DNA. The oncomouse case sends all the wrong signals. Not even Frankenstein tried to patent his creation.

ANOTHER VIEW John Broadhurst

Women priests: the tide turns

Bishop Edwin Barnes, one of the so-called "flying bishops", has created a furore by suggesting that the ordination of women as priests was an error. He claims it can and will be reversed, as this new ministry is being resisted in many parishes. Is this the last cry of an obscurantist or is

there anything in his suggestion? Women priests are not an innovation of this age and, contrary to common perception, they existed in the early Church among fringe, and often heretical, Christian groups. Much evidence for this has come from feminist activists who have failed to see the implications. The early Church grappled with the issue and rejected it as contrary to the gospel. The groups that propounded it either died out or discontinued the practice. The present debate has most of its force in a view that our world is in some way different from any other that preceded it. This is held with such force that even the words of holy scripture are no longer perceived as normative for Christians. This view will man-

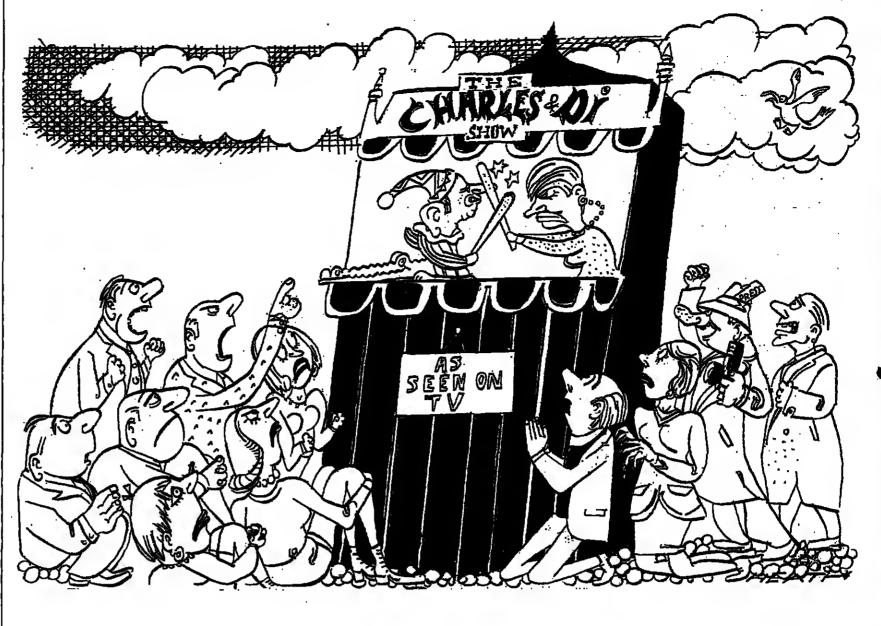
ifestly not stand the test of time. Bishop Barnes has to be right in his opinion, though if he believes it will happen in his lifetime he is sadly mistaken. The Church of God moves slowly. When feminism loses its political impetus it will still be fashionable among liberal Protes-tants. Being quaintly old-fashioned is part of the genre. Feminism is already moving away from the view that men and women are equal and interchangable to a view that they are equal and different. Much is now

made of women's special gifts and intuitions. The unpoliticised masses knew this, and it is what the Church has always taught. In time the Anglican churches that ordain women priests will, as in earlier his-

tory, either repent or die out. Other evidence does not augur well for omen's ordination. Around the country I hear stories of hishops who only voted for it because they thought it would fail and didn't wish to be part of the acrimony. Many of the supporters of women's ordination are not happy. Likewise there is evidence of disillusion among women priests. In Sweden I have met some who have resigned and joined the opposition, now thinking it a great error. In England one of the first women deacons elected to Synod in a special constituency became a Roman Catholic, as did one of the women ordained priest in the Church of Ireland. Many women priests talk of "pain and rejection" and I genuinely feel sorry for them, believing they are in an impossible position. There is also the fact that many radical feminists have rejected Christianity as contrary to their convictions. Fem-inist post-Christianity is a real force, and,

I believe, the logical end of feminism. The difficulty for Church of England tra ditionalists is that we will not have the luxury of seeing history's judgement upon us. Are we simply old-fashioned foots, or prophets? If history repeats itself we are the

latter, if not, may God forgive us. The author is chairman of Forward in Faith.



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Marriage of Major and Blair | Prozac and Ecstasy: the risks | The royal

From Mr Simon Partridge Sir: Your editorial about John Major's proposals to reshape the Union ("Reshaping the Union, the McMajor way", 18 Novem-ber), claims that the "case for a Home Rule parliament is irresistible on moral grounds, and may become so on practical and political grounds". Yet, your assertion is difficult to square with the latest opinion poll evidence from Scotland.

A devolved parliament comes fair way down the wish list of Scottish voters - behind employment issues and better provision for health and education. How

are we to explain this paradox?
It seems likely that two separate issues are being conflated here - the politics of territory and the politics of ideology. But if we are to effectively "reshape the nation state", as you rightly call these two issues are properly

The political centre of gravity of the non-south-eastern portion of Britain is essentially centreleft. It should be obvious by now the remaining or that you cannot rule the UK. Yours faithfully, indefinitely from a neo-liberal perspective based on a parliamentary majority - but not a 20 November

majority of voters - drawn essentially from the South-east. The UK is not a nation of immigrants like the United States, and one of the results of the continued Gingrichinisation of our policy will be to disaggregate the kingdom along territorial lines.

The great irony is that what the present Tory Party is likely to achieve by its misconceived economic policy, new Labour is likely to achieve through its ill-thoughtthrough proposals for national devolution for Scotland and Wales, since nobody has yet explained how this will not ignite the slumbering English national resentment - the infamous West

Lothian question. Is there any way of marrying McMajor's sensible proposals for constitutional reform to Mr Blair's fair-minded proposals for the economy and taxation? The for, I believe it is essential that alternative would seem to be a period of considerable economic and constitutional chaos. Perhaps the time is not far off for a coalition government of the sensible centre, which would include the remaining one nation Tories. SIMON PARTRIDGE

London, N2

Less homework, more development

From Ms Jane Akister Sir: With regard to your article "11-year-olds shun homework for TV" (17 November), what is

homework? The research reported, in common with other recent reports on this topic, fails to consider the range of activities undertaken by children outside school that are furthering their skills develop-ment. These include music lessons and practice, dance and drama lessons, gymnastics, swimming lessons, football training and scouting activities, to name a few. They all offer opportuni-ties for children to develop filness, co-ordination, ability to focus on goals, team spirit and commitment.

I am sure that many children watch too much television, but I think if you take a wider view of learning, you will find many children at primary school do at least half an hour of "homework" a day.

Many schools expect children to read each night. Most children do not consider this to be homework. This is as it should be. We need children to develop skills and maintain interest. If children are set homework at too early an age, it becomes something the parents do. It also often becomes a battleground. Formal homework should ont be set until children are able to organise and

manage it independently.
Perhaps the National Foundation for Educational Research. David Blunkett and others could take a more constructive view of learning - encouraging and valuing extra-curricular activities, rather than seeking to extend the ordinary school day. Yours sincerely.

JANE AKISTER Senior Lecturer Anglia Polytechnic University, 17 November

Defence threat

From Ms Gill Samuel Sir: The letter from John Alderson (20 November) misrepresents the speech made last week by the Defence Secretary to a tri-Service conference. He made no mention whatsoever of armed forces tackling "inner-city crime". Mr Portillo's speech was on the theme of how the world may change in future and the threats that might arise to our national security. One such threat, he said, might come from drug traf-

The armed forces already assist the customs authorities in intercepting drug traffickers. His point was simply that use of defence resources in that way might become more necessary in future to combat these international threats to national security. Yours faithfully, GILL SAMUEL Press Secretary

Ministry of Defence

London, SW1

20 November

ficking or international organised

Adam's animals

From Sister Millicent Olga Sir: The concept of animal rights surely dates back further than 200 years (letter, 15 November). One has only to open one's Bible at the beginning, Genesis, to discover that God created all living creatures and blessed them, and saw that this creation was good. He gave man dominion over them all, not to exploit them, but to look to their well-being. Food provided for human beings did not include the killing and slaughtering of animals Yours faithfully, MILLICENT OLGA

Community of St Mary the Virgir

Wantage, Oxfordshire

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent-co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspaners, 0800 906609.

From Mr Robin Prior Sir. In her letter yesterday (17 November), Joanna Nakielny, the spokesperson for Lilly Indus-tries, said that Prozac, one of her company's products, is not a "street drug". She said that it is different from street drugs such as Ecstasy because it has been subjected to "rigorous testing in clinical trials".

In fact, Prozac is the recreational drug of choice for many people, and the testing Ms Nakielny refers to was rather less than rigorous. The distinguished psychiatrist Peter Breggin, in his book Toxic Psychiatry, says of the testing of Prozac:

The Prozac scientifically controlled testing trials lasted a mere five or six weeks.

He also points out that there are a growing number of voices, particularly in the US, counshould get at least five years' selling caution towards this drug following reports of worsening depression, a number of suicides and some violent outhursts among those taking it.

Some drugs are curative; some are fun to take; and some are hoth. But no agent of such potency as Prozac or Ecstasy is safe. There will always be risk, as the case of Leah Betts has tragi-cally shown. Whatever side of the argument we might be on, let's not pretend otherwise. Yours sincerely. ROBIN PRIOR

London, E8 18 November From Miss Erica Curtis and Miss

Katherine Bishop Sir: Peer pressure pushes young people under 20 into doing things

that they would not otherwise do. just for the fun of it. For some, it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience; for others, it becomes a reg-nlar occurrence. Often, sadly, it

does not stop there. Young people lose the fear, forget the risks, repeat the dose and are hooked. Depending on circumstances and location, most young people show determination always to resist the temptations. They enjoy alcohol and, in moderation, believe it to be relatively barm-

less. Smoking cigarettes can lead on to other things. First cannabis, then harder drugs follow, if the circumstances are right. Most young people, in our experience, would welcome a stronger stand on the use of drugs and a harder crackdown by the police on the pushers. The should get at least five years'

prison, followed by probationary community service All users could be punished accordingly with community service plus a course of counselling. Schools must also play their part with ongoing awareness campaigns and parents must take their fair share of responsibility. Drug dealers don't care about

their victims and regular users forget the risks. Leah Betts would not have died in vain if young people learned the lesson and started their own anti-drug campaigns among their peers. Yours faithfully, ERICA CURTIS

KATHERINE BISHOP Westwood St Thomas Sixth Form Publishing Group Salisbury, Wiltshire

Children have the most to lose

From Mr Bill Linton Sir: Thank you for launching your "Children of War Appeal" (18 November). Children in a war zone are always the most vulnerable, and have the most to lose: you only get one childhood, and one chance to develop normally, both physically and mentally. You also only have one set of parents.

It was for this reason that the final Declaration of the 1990 World Summit for Children included, as one of its seven najor goals, "protection of children in especially difficult cir-cumstances, particularly in situ-

ations of armed conflict". Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child from the same year says much the same thing. Almost every state has signed up to both of these documents, and almost all have also ratified the convention.

Clearly, the protection of children caught in the middle of a vicious civil war is particularly difficult, but now that the war is (hopefully) over, it would be a good time for the world's statesmen to start making concrete plans as to how they are going to fulfil these obligations which they freely entered into. Yours faithfully.

tle bus between the city centre and

the international airport, costing

4,000 roubles (57p). I assume that

something similar operates in

Of those, admittedly few,

Finnair was a help: it told me about the shuttle. Taxi fares can

be extra-terrestrial: the art of

milking the foreign business-vis-

ilor is well advanced.

Yours faithfully.

N. I. BARNES

16 November

London, NW8

BILL LINTON London, N13 20 November

Moscow.

Rouble routes

From Mr N. I. Barnes Sir. Neil Taylor says of Russia: "the lack of public transport requires a taxi transfer to the airport". (Business Travel: "Former Soviet states seek solutions", 15 November) In St Petersburg at the moment

one can go to either of the airports by public transport (metro and bus) for a total of 1,000 roubles (£1=7,000 roubles). If one does ont fancy standing in a crowded hus, falling over one's own luggage (an extra 400 roubles per case) there is, every 20 minutes, a shut-

We have ways

From Mr Mark Lloyd Sir. The photograph of the MI6 building you printed today ("Love me do". 13 November) is a mirror image: Vauxhall bridge is shown to the left of the notorious

spy centre rather than to the right. Is this a cunning security measure to foil potential infiltrators or a simple error? Or are you not at liberty to say? Yours faithfully, MARK LLOYD

precedent

From Mr Nicolas Walter Sir: If Niall Ferguson ("Off With Her Talking Head", 20 November) teaches history at Jesus College, Oxford, he should know better than to say that Henry VIII got a divorce from Catherine of Aragon or that the Church of England was invented to let him do so. What he got was an annulment, like that from Anne of Cleves nine years later; and what happened to the Church of England in the 1530s was not that it was invented, since it had existed for several centuries, but that it was separated from Rome. Nor is George IV a good precedent for the divorce of a monarch, since his marriage to Caroline of Brunswick was higamous. A better precedent is George I, who divorced (and imprisoned) Sophia Dorothea of Celle 20

years before he became king. Niall Ferguson reminds us that in the old days Diana would face execution for her public conduct. So would he, for his public discussion of itl Yours faithfully,

NICOLAS WALTER London, NI 20 November

From Mr Anthony G. Meadows Sir: Why does David Aaronovitch say: "Charles is not just a troubled prince, but a modern male, confused, upset, clumsy, uncomprehending - as emotionally retarded as the rest of us" ("Another ripping royal yarn", 16 November) when, for years, reports on the lifestyles of Charles and Diana have shown them to be different in outlook and temperament?

The royal couple, like many couples I know, have reached a stage of unresolvable incompatibility, but this does not necessarily mean that Charles, or any other modern male in a similar position, has the inadequacies Mr Aaronovitch describes. Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY G. MEADOWS Loughborough

Pay and displays

From Mr Michael MccGwire Sir: Peter Foster's suggestion (letter, 18 November) that museums should charge by the time spent on the premises could be met by the car-park system, when you take a timed ticket on entry and

pay on departure. If payment is to automatic machines that dispense an exit permit in return, this minimises congestion, while still allowing differential pricing according to time of day, day of week, or catagents I recently approached in London on this question, only egory of visitor. Yours faithfully, M. K. MCCGWIRE Duriston, Dorset

House of rascals

From Ms Sally Lewis Sir: Lottie, aged two and a half, walched the state opening of Par-liament on television and asked if the lady in the crown was "the Queen of the castle". Assured on this point, the discerning child then pointed to the MPs streaming in from the House of Commons and declared: "So there are the dirty rascals!". Yours faithfully,

SALLY LEWIS Salthurn by the Sca, Cleveland

Robert Blow

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Gordon Brown's tax proposals could signal the beginning of a genuinely new Labour economics

The mists are clearing. Amid the new Labour rhetoric and the news is that Labour has decided it cannews is that Labour has decided it cannews. name-calling among economists one big fact stands out from the past few days. Progressive taxation is back. Gordon Brown's proposal to cut taxes for the poorest workers is only the start. Unless the English language is in terminal decline, fair taxes must mean higher taxes for wealthier

What Labour is trying to do is to win the propaganda war it lost in 1992 before the next election campaign gets going. Last time, Labour's tax plans going. Last time, Labour's tax pians would have meant most people paying less; but the higher paid would have been hit hard. The Conservatives, however, persuaded the country that most ordinary people would be hit by "Labour's tax bombshell"
Shadow Cabinet people tramping

round doorsteps were confronted by low-paid or even unemployed voters who were convinced that a Labour government would require higher taxes from them. It shook them rigid. It reminded them of what they ought to have known all along, which is that opinion formers are well paid and voters are mostly innumerate.

So now we have Brown the tax-cut-ter, the VAT-slasher, the enemy of income tax. This time round, Labour is trying to get the good news in first. to imprint so firmly in people's minds the idea that the pooter will be taxed less that not even the combined might of Conservative Central Office, Maurice Saatchi and the Daily Express will be able to shake it.

Then, and only then, will the infinitely more sensitive issue of higher-rate taxpayers be nddressed. But it will

not try to hide its plans; Tony Blair's promise to "say what we mean and mean what we say" necessitates the great gamble of being honest with the

One of the great ironies of Labour's new tax position is that it was made possible by Norman Lamont's last prelection Budget, in which he wrongfooted the Opposition by introducing a new, low-rate, 20p income tax band. It is this Gordon Brown now wants to halve. Having done so, he would have the bottom steps of a taxation ladder

- 10p, 25p and 40p - which would then surely be extended upwards.

Tony Blair has recently promised that there will be no penal taxation for higher earners or entrepreneurs. The Brown team say they are equally against ridiculously high taxes for the rich and poverty traps for the poor. But the money must come from somewhere; and it is pretty clear where. It will come from the sort of people who write, and mostly read, this newspaper.

You can tell a lot about how a party is thinking by watching the statistics which obsess it. The current favourite is the proportion of income that goes in tax for the bottom fifth of families (around 41 per cent) as against the top fifth (34 per cent). Gordon Brown is a Labour moderniser, but he is also the tax rate to 10p. It would also have to political heir of the staunchly redistributive John Smith, Were that statistic to be the same after five years of his stewardship at the Treasury, I guess

that Brown could not live with himself. The scale of the higher-rate increase will depend on the outcome of a conflict between John Smith's spirit, and



failure in 1992, and Tony Blair's presence and ambition for 1997. But that it will be proposed, we should have no

First, though, Brown is turning to the people at the bottom. The effect of his proposed 10p rate is actually quite simple; it would make work a little more altractive to them. If you are in work and on the main meanstested benefits - family credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit you are facing a marginal tax rate of 80p in the pound. And in the most extreme cases, 97p.
Astonishing, isn't it? The incentive-

sapping, high marginal tax rates that existed under Labour in the Seventies, and which most people in the country assume are long gone, are still around. But, like tuberculosis, only among the poorest workers. Labour make the "tapers", which determine how much benefit people in work get, more generous.

We are not talking about a fiscal revolution. This £6.5bn package would only take the marginal rate for lowpaid workers down to around 60-70p in the pound. But it would help, Paul

them a viable vehicle for getting from unemployment into work".

It marks, at least on the surface, a transformation in Labour's attitude to what are sometimes called the ham-hurger-flipping jobs. Up to now, the mix of trade union-inspired hauteur and angry political derision about the kinds of employment generated in the Eighties and Nineties led old Labour to act as if these jobs were too dis-gracuful to be included in policy-making - facts that shouldn't be spoken of

in polite society.

Now, with this tax proposal and the minimum wage coming in below the unions' preferred figure, new Labour is seeking, instead, to make the most of them. It could signal the beginning of a genuinely new Labour economics, breaking with trade union-dominated attitudes to the labour market and with the present corporatism. But it all depends on how the party

dealt with public spending.

An intriguing new pamphlet by Professor Nick Bosanquet of Imperial College, London, published by the Social Market Foundation, argues that the changes to the public sector introduced over the past 15 years may actually lead to higher, not lower, pressures on public spending. Contracting-out and arms'-length agencies may have been intended to lower costs. But Bosanquet argues that they hand more power to hig corporations and well-organised interest groups.

He singles out "the vested interest

Gregg of the London School of Economics calls the Brown plan "tax cuts with a conscience ... trying to take the temporary and low-paid jobs generated over the last 15 years and make out process favours large contractors in areas such as defence procurement, road building and capital investment in health and education ... There is a growing divide between large corporations dug into markets where there is often substantial public spending and small firms struggling to

However briefly put, these are toolittle-recognised truths about what has happened to this country. It has become not an open meritocracy but a land of closed and private deals in which husiness and politics are too hatly, silently, intertwined. The evidence spills out from those drily cen-sorious reports of the National Audit Office or the Audit Commission.

For Labour, it marks the real challenge. Changing the tax system would only be accepted by the all-important middle classes if they thought the party was genuinely trying to be fair, and was determined to hold down public spending - no special cases, no class of insiders, no group of chums exempt from the general will.

An anti-corporatist party of the left which came into power determined to run its tax and spending policy without reference either to the unions or to the hig corporations dig-ging into the rich mine of public expenditure would be in for a rough ride. Tilting the system back to lowerpaid people and small husinesses would be furiously resisted by the new corporatists of the Nineties.

But by God, it would be worth it.

signs are that despite the moral gravitas of the President, the

country is not ready to do so,"

said Gien Oosthuysen of the

South African Institute of

said South Africa would not

lead a campaign to impose sanctions against Nigeria because it did not have the eco-

nomic or political clout. That

role, he said, could only be

taken on by Britain or the US. Much of the blame has been

Minister, Alfred Nzo. While

South Africa has

been unable to

cash in on the

'Mandela factor'

Mr Nzo gained extensive experience in the international

arena during his time in exile

with the African National Con-

gress, he was also known as a poor administrator with a lack

of imagination. His surprising appointment to one of the povernment's most important

posts was in part attributed to

the desire of Thabo Mbeki,

South Africa's Deputy Presi-

dent, to keep a hand on the till.

International Affairs. Until last week, the Deputy Foreign Minister, Aziz Pahad,

Becket's brains: a snip at 50p

Ot long ago I was in the antee though. I'll show you something. Wait here." first time in a long time and I realised that you now had to pay to get inside the cathedral.

My wife, an ex-inhabitant of
Canterbury, was most indignant
at being charged £2 to enter a
place she used to frequent for free. I mentioned this in print, in this very column. I received several letters from Canter-hnry residents hotly defending the entry charge and saying that, quite apart from the rev-enue it raised, it helped to cut down on the otherwise in-

They might like to know that Monsignor David Lewis agrees

evitable tourist throng, which

was not only making the cathe-dral unbearable but wearing it

Monsignor David Lewis is a Catholic clergyman who has risen to some eminence in Rome and now is in charge of the large and imposing church called Santa Maria Maggiore, where the very crib in which Jesus lay as a baby is still on dis-play. I know that because I was there a couple of months ago, working on a Channel 4 film which was looking at the place of relics in the Catholic Church.

I think it was the first nonhuman relic we had seen, this crib. We had already viewed the skull-bone of Saint Chrysogono (an obscure Roman soldier martyred for converting to Christianity), the left foot of Saint Teresa and the heads of Saints Peter and Paul, but this was the first Biblical furniture we had viewed, and that was we had viewed, and that was how we met Monsignor Lewis. A tall, imposing, white-haired man, sturdily built like an old rugby player, which he might well have been, given the strong Welsh accent which he still retains. "Not just the accent," he told us. "I still speak Welsh. I very occasionally celebrate Mass in Welsh still, though I have to say that there isn't much call for it here in the Eternal City. Or what we call the Infernal City these days. That was a reference to the traffic and pollution," he added, in case we didn't know that priests like to make don-

nish jokes. Sensing that we were somewhat sceptical of the authenticity of the Holy Crib – fair enough, I suppose, as nobody is likely to come out from Channel 4 to make a film aiming to endorse the authenticity of Catholic relics - Monsignor Lewis stressed that nobody guaranteed the genuineness of

"I believe it is genuine," he said, "but I can't prove it. We know that the wood is old enough, and we know that it has been preserved for as long as records have been kept, but we can't guarantee it. There are some things we can guar-

ISK gold, quartz m

screw-back case and

SCIEW-down Crown.

water-resistant to

BAUME & MERCIER

GENEVE

He bustled off through the crowds in the Sunday morning aisle. He bustled back with 3 glass casket. "There you are," he said. "The only known remains of St Thomas à Becket.

Absolutely guaranteed."
He twirled it as unconcernedly as if he were carryin: a handbag. There didn't seem to be a lot left. A bone or two. A hit of cloth. A letter, or what looked like it. "It's not a letter - it's the con-

temporary certificate of authenticity," said Monsigner Lewis. "We've had it tested by experts. Absolutely genuine. It lists the contents of the casket. which are a bit of shoulder, a bit of brain-case, some brain tissue and a long white shirt. It corresponds exactly to what we know of his death, when the sword sliced through his skuil HERE and cut off the top of his shoulder HERE." He demonstrated graphically.



"Shouldn') this all be back 21 Canterbury?" I said. "Well, it was all back at Can-terbury," he said, "until the place went Protestant and things like this were rescued and brought back to Rome." "Have they ever said they wanted it back?"

"Of course! They'd love to have it back! But it's out of the question, St Thomas was a good Catholic boy, don't forget. Canterbury isn'l Catholic any more, so it should be in Rome Of course, if they ever decided to come hack to the true faith

I decided to consult him on Independent business. "I don't know if you know this, but Canterbury Cathedral now charges for entry. I think it's £2 a head. What do you think of that?"

Monsignor Lewis looked at the coachloads coming in and out of his church and sighed and said: "I have every sympathy with them. Every sympathy. If I could take 50p off everyone who came in this church, my worthes would be over. As it is we are millions in debt, or at least we need millions to keep the place in good repair. Most of my time is spent fund-raising. Going on tours of America witis my hat held out. I'd give anything not to have to do that. Just 50p, that's all it would take ...

I admit it. It seems I may have been wrong about Can-terbury Cathedral.

i-od alf in-he ed Vr

Robert Block explains why South Africa's foreign policy is a pale shadow of what it might be

When Mandela went missing

Aletter written last week by one of Ken Saro-Wiwa's lawyers to Nelson Mandela said it ali. "Were quiel diplomacy pursued in South Africa ... I doubt you would be alive today." South Africa's international humili-

ation was complete. While the execution of Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues at the opening of the Commonwealth summit caught even the most well-informed Nigeria expert off guard, there is little doubt that Mr Mandela lost his international political innocence that day. The question being

South African foreign policy has had no vision to guide it

asked now throughout South Africa and elsewhere in the world is what went wrong? How could South Africa have miscalculated so badly? Why didn't Mr Mandela heed the appeals of Nigerian opposition leaders and intellectuals for more robust action to isolate General Sani Abacha and his gang of military thugs?

The answers point to short-comings in South Africa's foreign policy and the country's lack of understanding of its

place in the world. During the past two years there has been a glaring disjunc-ture between what South African foreign policy stood for, what the world expected of il and what the government was actually doing. The result, according to Professor Peter Vale of the Centre for South African Studies at the Western Cape University, is that South

Africa has no coherent foreign policy.

Over the past two years, the United States and the European Union, tired of dealing with all the maladies of Africa, have tried to push South Africa into the role of continental super-power. The plan was that the West would help to develop the country economically and in exchange leave Pretoria to handle African responsibilities" such as regional peacekeeping and political power-brokering. While many bureaucrats in the country's Foreign Ministry and Department of Trade and Industry were keen to



Nelson Mandela: reluctant to accept the poisoned chalice of regional peacekeeper and power broker

extend South African influence in a way they never could during the apartheid years, Mr Mandela was reluctant to accept such a poisoned chalice without making clear the principles for which his nation stood. Last year, he wrote that his foreign policy would be guided the twin beacons of

human rights and democracy. However, South Africa's record in defending human rights and advancing the cause of democracy was not impressive even before the Nigerian débacle. The country's intervention in Rwanda, Lesotho, Swaziland and even Angola has not drawn any applause. Pretoria has not raised its voice against human rights abuse in Kenya. In the case of Nigeria it opted for its now-discredited "softly-softly" approach. The inconsis-tencies have not been limited to Africa. During two visits to Indonesia, Mr Mandela only made passing reference to East Timor. And while professing to

be guided in its arms policy by human rights, South Africa failed in support a recent international bid to ban the manufacture and export of land mines.

According to Professor Vale, the

failings of Sonth Africa's foreign policy have to be seen in the context of its recent past and a rapidly changing its recent past and a rapidly changing world. Throughout the Seventies and the Eighties, South Africa was isolated from not only the rest of the world but from the continent itself. Its foreign policy then was threat-driven, aimed at subverting nearby countries in response to the imagined "total

onslaught" of communism.

After the end of the Cold War and the demise of apartheid, South African foreign policy was essentially rudderless, without any vision to guide it. At the same time the country found itself by force of events in the international limelight. Using its new-found respectability, it latched on to what Professor Vale

being driven only by economic issues: trade, industry, etc. The Foreign Ministry spent most of its energies using Mr Mandela's reputation to boost its quest for foreign investment. Thus the main business of South African foreign pol-

icy was finding business. But whether South Africa liked it or not, it was at the moral forefront of the world. Since his election as South Africa's first democratically elected president, Nelson Mandela has seen a parade of monarchs, statesmen and gar-den variety politicians beat a path to his door. His moral standing and his courageous life have set him apart. Yet South Africa has been either unable or unwilling to cash in on the "Mandela factor". Everyone has been looking to South Africa to play a bigger role in

international affairs and to lead. But

calls economic pragmatism, or the "neo-mercantilist" model of international affairs, which views the world as being driven only by according to the control of the control Whenever problems cropped sor Vale has called a "fetish for compromise". They have both appeared incapable of deciding whether South Africa should lead or follow the Africa into the 21st century.
In the end, Mr Mandela must also

take his share of the hlame. Stung by the recent criticism that South Africa had not done enough to try to halt the executions, he has taken charge of the campaign to isolate Nigeria's rulers. To do so he is not relying on his country's economic muscle hut on his own moral authority. In doing so he has made it clear that if South Africa wants to be a champion of human rights, its foreign policy must be brought into line with the moral standing of its leader. To fail to do so will only lead to more humiliation and the fall of the last of our heroes.





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E

Generation Why YOU SOUND JUST LIKE ON SECOND THOUGHTS, FOR GOD'S SAKE, I LOOK MORE I CAN'T GO ON AS DIANA, THE REAL THING ... MARTIN, JUST GET DON'T STOP ... LIKE CAMILLA I'M NOTHING LIKE HER , ON WITH YOUR DIANA LIVE ON SCRAPT I WON'T FOOL ANYONE .. THAN DI .. TA STUDIO WHINGING ! QUESTION

Ralph Blane

Composer, lyricist, singer, pi-anist and arranger, Ralph Blane was a multi-talented man of theatre and cinema who will be best remembered for the songs he wrote, particularly his captivating work with Hugh Martin for Vincente Minnelli's 1944 classic Meet Me in St Louis, including the Osear-winning "Trolley Song" and the peren-nial "Have Yourself a Merry Little Cbristmas".

He was born Ralph Uriah Hunsecker in 1914 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and kept up close links with his home state. writing material for and occasionally hosting their fairs and beauty pageants. He was educated at Northwestern University, then studied piano, dancing and voice before joining the chorus of the St Louis Municipal Opera Company in 1934. He made his Broadway début in the chorus of Not Faces of 1936, followed by Lehar s Frederika (1937).

Late in 1937 he was hired as a chorus singer for the revue Hoorny for What?, featuring Kay Thompson, who as vocal arranger had also brought along most of the singers from her radio show, including Hugh Marlin. When Thompson was one of several east members fired during the show's stormy rehearsal period, Blanc and Martin took over the arranging

They arranged one of the show's songs for a quartet, including themselves, which had a life after the show, when they were known as the Martins. Hired by Richard Rodgers to do vocal arrangements for The Boys from Syracuse (1957). Blane and Martin wrote a superbarrangement of "Sing For Your Supper" for a harmonising female trio which stopped the show every night and led to their getting work as vocal arrangers on such important musicals as Kern and Hammerstein's liev Warm for May, Rodgers and Hart's Too Many Girls and Pal Joey, Cole Porter's Dubarry was a Lady, and Irving Berlin's Louisiana Purchase. Simultaneously, Blane had

become a popular radio nightclub singer, both as a solo billed as "NBC's Young Man of Melody") and as a member of the Martins on the radio shows of Mary Martin and Fred Allen. When the producer George Abbott was known to be seeking new talent for his next show, the actor Van Johnson suggested to Blane that he collaborate with Martin. The result. Best Foot Forward (1941), had a big hit with its rousing football song "Buckle Down, Winsocki", and was hailed for its youthful energy and for providing a fresh, modern sound on Broadway: with its boogiewoogie and swing junes, it is a score redolent of the Forties. Although each wrote many of the decided at the start of their collaboration always to take joint credit for their work. MGM signed several of the show's east for the film version

Blane to Hollywood to write new material and work with Roger Edens on arrangements. After writing two pieces of material for Judy Garland -"Three Cheers for the Yanks", filmed for but ultimately cut from For Me and My Gal (1942) and "The Joint is Really Jumping" for Thousands Cheer (1943) – they were assigned Meet Me in St Louis (1944). The unconventional, surgingly rhythmic Trolley Song deservedly won the Academy Award and became one of the most popular songs of the year and a trademark number for Garland. It is still a particular favourite with musicians. The wistful ballad "The Boy Next Door" was also a hit, while in 1989 "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" overtook Berlin's "White Christmas" to become the most recorded Christmas song of all time. (Luckily, Garland refused to sing the original lyrics which started "Have yourself a merry little Christmas, it may be

your last ...".) Further film hits by the team were "Love", smoulderingly in-troduced by Lena Horoe in composed with Harold Arlen a



Sheet-music for Blane and Martin's 'Trolley Song', 1944: ' "Clang, clang," went the trolley, "Ding, ding, ding," went the bell, "Zing, zing, zing,"

suitable for a Broadway revue

Ziegfeld Follies (1946) and "Pass" wilty score that seemed more That Peace Pipe" written with Edens and a highlight of MGM's delightful 1947 ver-sion of Good News, Wben Martin moved back to New York to do stage work, Blane wrote a solo score, One Sunday Afternoon (1948) and collaborated with Harry Warren on Summer Holiday (1948), a charmingly innovative score with one rousing hit, "The Stanley Steamer": My Dream is Yours (1949), which gave Doris Day two hits, the ti-tle-song and "Someone Like You"; and Skirts Ahoy! (1952), which included "What Good is a Gal Without a Guy?".

THE SUN MUSIC PUBLISHING Co. Lat.

23, Demmark St. London W. C. 2.

For a Betty Grable vehicle,

- it included songs satirising South Pacific, the "holiday" tunes of Irving Berlin and taxdeductible expenses. The show's hit tune, "Don't Rock the Boat, Dear", was crammed with felicitous rhymes for its many "boat" synonyms. The French Line (1954), starring Jane Russell, had songs by Blane and Joseph Myrow, after which Blane was reunited with Martin for The Girl Rush (1954), which starred Rosalind Russell, though Gloria De Haven had

the hit song, "An Occasional Man", and two Jane Powell musicals, Athena (1954) and The Girl Most Likely (1957).

to write words and music for Three Wishes for Jamie (1952) but its Irish whimsy and a plot involving the heroine's barrenness doomed it to a short run, and in 1956, he wrote an orchestral symphony, "A Prayer for Voltaire"

In 1989 a stage version of Meet Me in St Louis opened on Broadway and the team of Martin and Blane (both 75 years old) got logether once more to write new songs to bolster the still potent originals. Tom Vallance

Raiph Uriah Hunsecker (Raiph Blane), songwriter, composer, born Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 26 July 1914; died Broken Arrov 13 November 1995.

F. G. Emmison

F. G. Emmison was a pioneer in the field of tocal archives whose determination, energy and scholarship, together with his undoubted talents as a publicist, made him a formidable

and often irresistible force.
That the Essex Record Office became a leader in its field was thanks to Emmison's refusal to be content with modest achievement and his ability to recruit and direct the work of talented assistants. Eight of his staff went on to become county archivists. Others distinguished themselves as historians or made significant contributions to the work of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts and the British Library Department of Manuscripts.
Under his direction the first Essex Record Office Guides were published in 1946 and 1948. models later to be adopted by other offices. The development of a service

to Essex schools, including the publication of the pioneering Sext portfolio series encouraged the educational use of archives in other counties and the establishment of other like services. With his wife Margaret. he endowed an annual prize for work based on historical research by Essex schoolchildren which still continues. The annual exhibitions at Ingatestone Hall, still recalled with admiration by those who visited them, together with their accompanying booklets, set a new standard for colleagues to emulate. The establishment of the Record Office as a publishing house for Essex local history in order to bring the written heritage of his county to a wider audience and to interpret it for the enjoyment of the general public remains as a fitting tribute to his foresight and as a path which other offices still strive to

follow, Born in Bedford in 1907. Frederick George Emmison was educated at Bedford Modern School, where he distinguished himself academically. hut was unable to proceed to university (Cambridge would have been his choice), because of his father's mistaken belief that a family investment had failed. The denial of a university education and a degree was a cause of regret to him which perhaps spurred him on to prove himself more than



equal, by his achievements in his chosen profession, to those with formal academic qualifications. The many distinctions bestowed on him during a long and productive life were a source of considerable pleasure to a man who outwardly seemed so confident, but inwardly needed reassurance of the approbation of his peers.

In 1925 be was appointed as Bedfordshire's first Clerk of the Records under the tutelage of Dr G.H. Fowler, the "Father of Local Archives". From Fowler he gained a thorough grounding in the emerging field of archive administration and, by the time of his appointment as the first County Archivist of Essex, Emmison had already gained a reputation for his encrgetic, imaginative approach, having surveyed the civil and ecclesiastical parish records of Bedfordshire in his own time.

Emmison's was a prolific author. As one observer noted, a bibliography of his works up to 1976, published in the Journal of the Society of Archivists, embraced five pages and since then he produced numerous arlicles and several larger works. His Tudor Secretary: Sir William Petre at Court and Home (1961) was a significant contribution to Tudor studies, and his Elizabethan Life series demonstrat-ed the richness of Essex sources for the period and his ability to relate them to the wider canvas. The Essex Wills series, on which he was still working shortly before his death, will extend to 12 volumes, of which 10 have already been published. The series demonstrates the tenacity and stamina of the man and

to be found in probate records. that he was determined to

Emmison was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, of the Royal Historical Society and ofthe Society of Genealogists; he was a founder member of both the British Records Association and the Society of Local Archivists, and was honoured with the offices of President or Vice-President by the Historical Association, the British Records Association, the Society of Archivists and the Society of Genealogists as well as by many learned societies in Essex and Bedfordshire, In 1974 he was awarded the Julian Bickersteth Medal by the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies and in 1987 the Medlicott Medal by the Historical Association. He was appointed MBE in 1966 and he took particular pleasure from the conferring of an bonorary Doctorate by Essex University in 1970.

Margaret Langwill, whom he married in 1935, also in archivist, helped Derick with editorial tasks throughout his career until her eyesigh1. deteriorated. Her death less than a year ago robbed him of an immensely patient and supportive helpmate and his own robust health ebbed away. He had retired as County Archivist of Essex in 1969, but his passion for the further development of his creation never left him and. his work continued through the Friends of Historic Essex and a determination to keep abreast of the latest

improvements.
Throughout his life the force of his personality sometimes made him a less than easy colleague or collaborator, but he succeeded where many others would have faltered. Archivists and historians have much to be grateful for in the achievements of Derick Emmison.

Frederick George Emmison, archivist and historian: born Bedford 28 May 1907; Clerk of the Records, Bedfordshire 1925 1938; County Archivist of Essex 1938-1969; married 1935 Margaret Langwill (died 1994; one The wealth of material for son, one daughter); died Chelms-historians and genealogists ford 9 November 1995.

Professor Alex Mowat

tension and liver tumours were

Alex Mowat had been Professor of Paediatric Hepatology at King's College Hospital, London, for the past five years, and many young patients he helped. both in Britain and throughout the world; he died while on a

lecture tour in Chile. Mowai was proud of his Scottish ancestry and his medical education in Aberdeen. The seeds of his hrilliant academic career were sown during clinical ap-pointments in the 1960s in Aberdeen, Hong Kong, and New York and matured in a research post in the Enzymology Department of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, and during a two-year Training Fellowship with Dr Irwin M. Arias in the Department of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva, New York. These posts gave Mowat an expertise in biochemistry, en-Aymology and hepatology which formed the basis of great clinical contributions to his chosen specialty of paediatric liver disease and in the care of children

At the very early steps of his career. Alex Mowal met and mar-

ed to King's as Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Hepatologist, a post which was unique and a timely recognition of a completely new specialty. Although there had previously been no sustained academic interest in liver disorders in children in Britain. Mowat developed a first-class clinical unit for children who suffered with these rare conditions. The clinical work of the unit was backed up at all levels by research into causes and treatment; it needed staff from many disciplines and Mowai forged a team of hepatologists, paediatric and transplant surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, nurse specialists, dieticians and other specialists which had no equal at that time.

In 1986 the unit received official government recognition and funding, thus hecoming

In 1970 Mowat was appoint-

in general paediatric medicine. the first supraregional centre for the treatment of children with liver disorders from all over ried Ann Hunter, a continuous Britain. The concentration of his death represents a great loss source of inspiration, support the children into one unil inpertise in management and this was reflected in the improved results which formed the basis of more than 200 publications. Biliary atresia, portal hyper-

> some of the conditions which were treated with results which were not surpassed in any centre in the world. Mowat was supportive of the introduction of new techniques of treatment and this included the development of liver transplantation in children. His unit pioneered the development of auxiliary transplants and the successful introduction of the living-related programme - in which one of the parents gives part of their liver to be transplanted into the child - which has helped to ease the shortage of available organs in trans-

orders and over 30 received liver transplants. The international standing of

the unit is remarkable and many of the research projects laboration with university departments abroad. An example of the value of this work was the discovery of the key role of dietary copper in the causation of Indian Childhood cirrhosis, a finding which has led to the disappearance of the disease in parts of India in which this information has been made known.

The experience from King's was distilled by Mowat into his textbook Liver Disorders in Childhood (1979). The book reached its third edition in 1994 and is generally regarded as the reference book on the subject. Mowat has also been credited with raising the general awareness of his subject by introducing liver medicine into gastroenterological and general paediatric meetings. However plantation. Last year more than his work was not restricted to 560 children were admitted the confines of the medical profession. In 1980 he encourwith life-threatening liver dis-

aged parents of children altending the liver service at King's to develop an association which has become the Children's Liver Disease Foundaorganisation is dedicated to making the problems of children's liver disease more

widely known, to improving

outcome by funding research

and to providing support for af-fected families. It has raised over £3m. Academic and clinical work produced other responsibilities for Mowat which he handled with skill. He was Head of the Academic Department of Child Health within the hospital and an examiner for London University and the Royal Col-

and Chairman of the Hospital Consultants' Committee. Alex Mowat also had a full life outside his work. He loved

lege of Physicians. He was also

Honorary Consultant in Paedi-

atrics to the Royal Air Force

his golf and taught many friends the art of whisky tasting. Edward R. Howard and Giorgina Mieli-Vergani



Alexander Parker Mowai, pacdiatrician, hepatologist: born Cullen, Banffshire 5 April 1935; Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Hepatologist, King's College Hospital, London 1970 95, Head, Department of Child Health, King's College Hospital 1993-95; Clinical Teacher, London University 1970-95; Professor of Paediatric Hepatology London University 1990-95, Se nior Examiner in Paediatrics 1993-95; married 1961 Ann Hunter (two sons); died Saniago, Chile 11 November

Eddie Griffiths

Tam Dalyell's obituary of Eddie Griffiths [20 October] draws altention to his naïve maiden speech in the House of Commons, and to his inability to realise that a failure to reside in him politically vulnerable, writes D. J. Stapley. However, neither his continued Welsh residence nor his indiscreet visit to a Conservative MP in Suffolk, reported by Dalyell, were ever more than an excuse and the "last straw" needed 10 get rid of a man who spoke his mind

too openly. Eddie maintained that irreparable damage had been done to the steel industry from the 1950s onwards by both Conservative and Labour parties who had used it as a political football. He was also angry. like many other loyal tradeunionists, some in senior positions, at the way that the Labour

94. Represented Jacqueline

government had set up the nationalised industry in 1967 and had then interfered daily in operational matters - and angry at the way that they had forced on the industry political, sensible, decisions.

After he ceased to be an MP. Eddie worked with me in British Steel Corporation Sheffield Division headquarters on a research project and was, also, writing a book to demonstrate the damage done to lbe industry by political interference.

He believed that honest criticism and debate could correct the faults in both unions and management in the industry and in the Labour Party. Was he ahead of his time or just too naive? As a Christian democrat, he should never have been wedded to that particular constituency party.

Simon Rifkind, lawyer, died as an adviser on Jewish affairs New York 14 November, aged to the US Army in Europe in 1945-46, giving legal assistance Kennedy Onassis, and worked to many Holocaust survivors.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

LEE-WOOLF: The Rev James Philip, missionary, minister, ecumenist, On Saturday 18 November, at home, aged 79, Beloved husband of Jean. aged 79. Beloved rustoaud of Jean.
much-lowed father and grandfather.
Funeral Saturday 25 November. Private cremation at Golders Green.
Ham, followed by a thanksgiving service at \$1 Margaret's URC Finchley.
1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Christian Aid. MURPHY: John A., Archbishop Emer-itus of Cardiff, at St Joseph's Hospi

itus of Cardiff, at St Joseph's Hospital, Malpas, on 18 November 1995, in his 90th year. Reception of body into St David's Cathedral, Cardiff, on Wednesday 22 November at 5pm. Lying in state on Thursday 8am-8pm. Funeral mass at 12 noon. Friday 24 November, followed by interment at Uniumannam Abbey. No flowers. If desired, donations to St Anne's Hospice, clot the Administrator, Malpas, pice, c/o the Administrator, Malpas, Newport, Gwent.

Newport, Gwent.

SWIRE: Suddenly, on 19 November, at her home in Delph, Gwen, aged 61 years, retired deputy director of Social Services, Oliham. Funeral service at St. Thomas's Church, Delph, on Thursday 23 November at 230pm. nursusy in reovember at 1.30pm, prior to private interment at Heights Church Yard. No flowers by request. Funeral enquiries and donations, if desired, to the Woodland Trust, c/o D. Hawkins, telephone III-457 874357 or 871301

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, tele-phoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50

Birthdays

Mr Coningsby Allday, former chair-man, British Nuclear Fuels, 75; Miss Beryl Bainbridge, author and actress. 61; Mrs Georgina Battiscombe, author, 90; Miss Vivian Blaine, actress and singer, 72: Mr Roy Boulting, film producer, 82; Miss Tina Brown, Editor, the *New Yorker*, 42; Mr Jeremy Bullmore, director, the Guardian and Manchester Evening News ptc, 66; Miss Amelia Freedman, founder and Artistic Director, Nash Ensem-ble, 55: Mr Nickolas Grace, actor, 48: Dr Michael Grant, Greek and Roman historian, 81: Miss Goldie poet and journalist, 59: Mr Stanley Kalms, founder and chairman, Dixons Group, 64; M Jacques Laf-fite, motor racing driver, 52; Miss Na-talia Makarova, ballerina, 55; Mr Tim Robinson, cricketer, 37; Mr Malcolm Williamson, composer and Master of the Queen's Music, 64; Viscount Younger of Leckie, former Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, 89.

Anniversaries Births: Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet), writer, 1694; Arthur Goring Thomas, composer, 1850; Har-po (Adolph, or Arthur) Marx, Ghislain Magritte, painter, t898. Deaths: Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange, 1579; Henry Purcell, composer, 1695; James Hogg, writer, the "Ettrick Shepherd", 1835; Dominic Bevan Wyndham Lewis, author, 1969. On this day: the Montgolfier brothers made the first hot-air balloon flight, 1783; a Bill making women eligible as MPs received Royal Assent. 1918; construction work began on the Forth Road Bridge, 1958; parliamentary proceedings were televised for the first time, 1989. Today is the Feast Day of St Albert of Louvain

Lectures National Gallery: Stella Gambling, "Ceilings (iii): Tiepolo, An Allegory Victoria and Albert Museum: Catherine Wilson, "Dutch Delfi-ware", 2.30pm. British Museum: Chris Kirby, "Gebel el Haridi: a site in Egypt over 4.000

National Portrait Gatlery: Stephen Lloyd, "George IV and Richard Cosway: creating the public and private image", 1.10pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London ECt: Professor Peter tion: Harold Macmillan 1957-63".

Higheste Scientific and Literary Institution, London No: Marina Warner, "Lost Souls. Stolen Shadows",

RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Greg Penoyre and Sunand Prasad, "Theoretical Beginnings. Practical Completion", 6.15pm.

Lord Home of the Hirsel

There will be two thanksgiving ser-

vices for the life of Lord Home of the In London, a service will be held in Westminster Abbey at 11.30am on Monday 22 January. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to Miss Karen Koenen, 23 Great Winchester Street, London

EC2P 2AX. Tickets will be posted on 8 January. In Edinburgh, a service will be held in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Monday 4 December 1995 at 1 tam.

Dinners Corporation of London

The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chalstrey, entertained the outgoing Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Walford, at a Banquet held yesterday evening at Guildhall, London EC.. The Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Walford, the Archbishop of Caaterwantoru, the Archiostop of Canter-bury, the Most Rev George Carey, the Prime Minister, Mr John Major MP, and the Lord High Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, were the

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen heids an Investiture at Buckinghan Palaco. The Duke of Edinburgh, Pairon an Ittostee, attends receptions as Slames Visited for Voung Powie who have reached the Guld Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh. Award. a Founder and Chamman of the International Trustees, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. In ternational Association, gives a branch and dening a meeting of the International Trustees at Buckinghan Palaco, as Patinta and Trustees at Buckinghan Palaco, as Patinta and Trustees at Buckinghan Palaco, and as Fainnight and Charman of Edinburgh's Award and Edinburgh's Award International Association, attends a Wireless Palaco, and as Fainnight and Charman of Edinburgh's Award International Association, attends a Wireless Palaco, and as Fainnight and Incharman of Palaco, and as Fainnight and Incharman of the International Association, attends a Wireless of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height palacon of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height is the Palacon of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height is the Palacon of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height is the Palacon of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height is the Palacon of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height is the Palacon of Wales, Duke of Cormsall, white height is the Palacon of Wales, Duke of Edinburgh's and the October 18 palacon of the Charter Members of the Royal Lancostar Hirel. London W.T. The Princess Bornal strends a consequence of the Charter Members of the Royal Lancostar Hirel. London W.T. The Princess Bornal strends a consequence of Science Palacon of Royal Corners and Palacon of Royal Condens Swill, Ital Dukessa of Royal Condens Swill and Dukessa o

Changing of the Guard

Council not bound by promise to tenant

Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel who did not

Council v Logan; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Auld) 31 October 1995

A housing authority was not bound to honour its written promise to a Icnant that, having left her previous home because of racial harassment. she would not be evicted from the property in which she was currently squatting unless and until she bad been offered a suitable

alternative. The authority's undertaking did not form the basis of a binding contract, and neither it nor the authority's express policy of giving precedence to victims of racial harassment gave rise to an estoppel. The ienani thus had no right to occupy the premises in which she was squatting and the authority was entitled to evice

The Court of Appeal dismissed Mrs Yvette Logan's appeal from Judge Levy OC, sitting in Central London County Court on 5 August 1994, who (i) made an order for possession of 21 Benwick Close, Rotherhithe, London, in favour of Southwark London Borough Council, and (ii) dismissed Mrs Logan's counterclaim to be a secure tenant of that property.

LAW REPORT

21 November 1995

uppear below) (Winston & Co) for Mrs Logan: Nicholas K. Nicol (Clive Grace, Southwark) for the council. Lord Justice Neill said that from 1975 to 1985 Mrs Logan and her family lived in a twobedroom council flat at 18 Hythe House in Southwark, where they were subjected to

1979 she was placed on the register for a transfer on the basis the flat was overcrowded. In 1985 the council adopted a policy on racial harassment which provided that victims should be transferred to accommodation of an equal or

serious racial harassment. In

higher standard. In December 1985 Mrs Logan and her family moved into 21 Benwich Close, which was part of a new development by the Greater London Council, half of which had been allo-cated to Southwark. The council tried to get Mrs Logan to leave because another family had been offered the house but she would not go. In May 1986 the council obtained a possession order, but did not enforce

it at that stage.

manager, Mrs V. Ross, wrote

her the letter on which her present claim was based. It said: You are registered as a family re-quiring five-bedroom accommodation and are of the highest priority because of the racial harassment experienced by you and members of your family at 18 Hythe House...

I promise that the Court Order obtained in May 1986 against you will not be enforced unless it is proved that you have been offered a suitable place and have refused it. able place and have refused it for no

In April 1989 Mrs Logan was told that approval would be sought from the housing committee for her to be offered the tenancy of the house but a recommendation to that effect was not followed through, nor was it accepted by the committee in April 1990. In January 1991 a notice to quit was served. After various delays, the case came before the judge in

July 1994. it was argued (a) that the lefter of 28 August 1986 constituted a contract between the council and Mrs Logan under which she became entitled to remain at 21 Benwick Close until offered suitable alternative accommodation; or (b) that the On 28 August 1986 the council was estopped from dis-Rotherhithe district housing puting her right to remain and

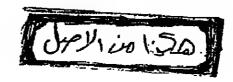
from bringing possession

proceedings, in his Lordship's judgment, the case in contract was hopeless. No term was agreed as 10 payment, which would have been an essential term of any contract: and none of the matters set out as constituting consideration was sufficient.

As for estoppel, it seemed abundantly clear that Mrs Logan had terminated ber tenancy of 18 Hythe House of her own initiative and in so doing had not suffered a detriment in reliance upon the assurance givcn in the letter of 28 August 1986. She had no intention of moving back; and even if the tenancy of 18 Hythe House was not formally terminated until 1988, that icrminatioo could not in the circumstances be regarded as a detriment suffered by Mrs Logan. She had effec-tively severed ber connection with Hythe House at the end of 1985.

Looking at the case as a whole, his Lordship concluded it would not be right to set aside the order for possession. The council had stayed its hand as long as it could because of Mrs Logan's difficulties; but it also had responsibilities to others who sought its assistance.

Lord Justice Auld agreed. Paul Magrath, Barrister



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INBRIEF

Emap revenues slow

Magazine publisher Emap signalled a slowdown in revenue growth in the second half, taking the shine off a 70 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits for the six munths to September. Profits improved across the company's activities, which include consumer and business magazines, regional newspapers and radio interests. Reported pre-tax profits jumped from \$22.2m to £33.9m while the interim dividend, jumped to 3.7p (2.5p). Investment column, page 22

Ernst & Young revenues at record high

Ernst & Young, which is the largest international accountancy firmand has the second higgest management consultancy practice among accounting firms, announced a 14 per cent rise in world-wide revenue to a record \$6.87bn for the year to 30 September. Nick Land, UK senior partner, said the increase exceeded world-wide growth for the previous four years combined.

Glaxo wins drug approval

Glaxo received approval from the US food and drug administration yesterday to market Epivir, an anti-HIV drug, in com-bination with Retrovir, the treatment acquired at the time of the £9hn takeover of Wellcome earlier this year. Epivir was approved under the FDA's accelerated approval regulations, which push drugs through the regulatory process if they are to treat a serious or potentially life-threatening disease. Glaxo Wellcome's shares closed 10p higher at 895.5p.

Sales up for life insurers

Hopes by life companies that the sales slump may he coming to an end received a minor boost after figures from the Associatinn of British Insurers yesterday said premium income from life insurance grew marginally to £2.22hn in the third quarter of this year, from £2.19bn in the three months to June. However, total premium income for pensions husiness dropped from £1.2bn to £962m over the same period.

PIA proposes adverts by guilty

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial watchdog, yesterday issued proposals to force life companies and financial advisers found guilty of rule breaches to put adverts that say so in the national press. The PIA is also proposing to move towards regulating only the heads of its member firms, making them responsible for their own staff

Asian central banks fight back

Asia's central banks have taken the first steps in declaring war on currency speculators. At a meeting in Hong Kong yesterday the top central bank officials from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan. Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand agreed to joint efforts to protect their currencies from speculators by supplying each other with funds while their currencies are under siege. They also laid the basis for further co-opeperation on monetary matters.

Grey market for National Grid shares

Shares in the National Grid Group, which is being demerged from the 12 regional electricity companies, traded at between 219-222p yesterday in unofficial grey market dealings. Although the grey market does not start officially until tomorrow, SBC Warburg made an unofficial grey market in the shares yesterday.

Bid looms as turmoil

continues at C&W

MARY FAGAN

Cable & Wireless was last night bracing itself for an oppor-tunistic takeover bid from Craig McCaw, the US mobile phone billionaire, as another day of boardroom turmoil failed to resolve the clash between chairman Lord Young of Graffham and chief executive James Ross.

Sources close to the compa-ny said last night that two board meetings had failed to end the stalemate over who runs the company. Win Bischoff, the deputy chairman, met executives yesterday morning, followed by an afternoon meeting of non-executives where both Lord Young and Mr Ross were questioned closely.

A statement from C&W is ex-

pected this morning.
It is understood that Mr Mc-Caw is currently holding dis-cussions with his bankers and has the financial muscle to mount a £11.5bn hostile hid. C&W's shares closed up 3p to 420p valuing the company at more than £9bn.

C&W was plunged into chaos at the weekend after it emerged that Mr Ross had delivered a warning that he would go unless Lord Young is ousted or reduced to a lesser role.

According to one senior executive, the company's position is "unsustainable" and leaves C&W an obvious candidate for bid. City analysts say that a successful suitor would have to pay at least £11ho.

There has been speculation that Mr McCaw approached BT at one point to discuss a joint takeover of all or part of C&W, including the One 2 One mohile telephone operation jointowned by C&W and US West. Mr McCaw founded Mccommunications company, in which BT took a large stake before selling out to AT&T

would also join any battle for control of the group. Another potential name in the frame is that of Nynex, the US telecommunications group with which Mr Ross is already believed to be negotiating some form of cooperation. One problem for any predator is that many of C&W's assets are in joint venture. Another is that the group's operations around the world are often licensed by national governments, who would have to

approve transfer of control. More immediately, the key to who wins the battle between Lord Young and Mr Ross is the

backing of the non-executive di-rectors, led by Mr Bischoff, chairman of Schroders. He and his colleagues were attempting last night to hammer out some solution following the meeting with the executive directors but

excluding Mr Ross.
Lord Young was widely per-ceived as having the support of the non-executives following. the announcement last Thursday that he would remain as executive chairman until his 65th hirthday in February 1997. But the Ross camp is insistent he has been successful in wooing UIrich Hartmann, a director of C&W's European partner, Veba, which has a 10.48 per cent

stake in the group.
Institutional shareholders the public débacle. One said that both Lord Young and Mr Ross should go if credibility is to be restored but other City sources said that if one head rolls it should be Lord Young.

Should Mr Ross relinquish his

post, the succession is far from clear. There is a view that the safest pair of hands would be those of Rod Olsen, the finance director, who has been with the group for a decade. Duncan Lewis, who in Sep-tember shocked the industry by resigning as chief executive of C&W's Mercury Communications arm, could also be in the running. One source close to the company said Stephen Pettit, director for Europe, could take the top slot. Although he joined the board as recently as September, after coming to C&W in March 1994, he is said to be "on an extremely fast track".

One City analyst said: "Institutions want to see a new chairman who has a record of serving shareholders well and who would go about it in a Caw Cellular, a dynamic mobile straightforward way at C&W." Another said that both the chairman and chief executive bave angered shareholders Analysts say that AT&T through empire-building at the expense of short-term shareholder returns". He added: "They have invested in disparate start-up operations all over the world. Shareholders should be entitled to expect some return on those investments. But the management has made decisions which are in-

appropriate and expensive ... Cable & Wireless has refused to comment, even going so far as to deny knowledge that yesterday's meetings were taking place. One insider said: 'Its exciting - there is this big boardroom battle and we do not know who will win."



Boardroom battle: Conflict over who runs telecoms group unresolved as threat of hostile US takeover group

Rod Olsen, an energetic New Zealander, is the dark horse in the Cable & Wireless soap opera. The finance director was thrust into the spotlight last Thursday by briefing the press on the group's interim results – a significant departure from the usual joint presentation by Lord Young and James Ross. According to one insider: "Rod has thrived so far through sitting on the fence, always going with the grain. But he certainly has ambitions to be more than finance director." Mr Olsen was appointed to the main board of Cable & Wireless in 1986, almost 10 years after he first joined the group in Hong Kong. An accountant by training, his ca-reer before C&W involved stints at BP, Peat Marwick Mitchell (the forerunner to KPMG) and the electronics industry.



The key players (clockwise from top left): Lord Young, the executive cheirmen: James Ross, chief executive; Win Bischoff, chairman of Schroders; and Ulrich Hartmann, a director of Cable and Wireless partners Veba of Germany



Duncan Lewis, who resigned abruptly in September as disexecutive of Mercury Communications, is variously described. as "abrasive" and "a real showman - his own best with cist". He was seen by many as the natural successor to Ross until it became clear that dissatisfaction with Mr Ross was one of the reasons Mr Lewis quit the top slot at Mercury after only nine months in the job. As yet without alternative employment, there is e view that Mr Lewis may . be waiting by the telephone, and that he would be a good man for the Joh of C&W's chief executive. But the manner of his departure - and the resulting spotlight on C&W's beleaguered board - has ruffled more than a few feathers at ... the Theobald's Road HQ.

A mogul tuned in to all frequencies

DAVID USBORNE

In all the lore about Craig McCaw, the Seattle-based communications mogul and exclassmate of Microsoft's Bill Gates, one comment passed about him by a close colleague stands out: "Craig never met a frequency be did not like."

Fascination about Mr McCaw - and what he might do next has only intensified since the sale of his bugely successful cellular telephone company, McCaw Cellular Commica-tions, to AT&T for a whopping

\$11.5bn (£7.5bn) last year. Mr McCaw, who is 46 and married with no children, is the son of John Elroy McCaw, a pioneer radio and television barron, who died in 1969 leaving his family with considerable debt. Craig, who is dyslexic, and his brothers, Bruce, John and Keith, performed a quick turn-



Turnaround: Craig McCaw who is sitting on a fortune

around, however, creating a cable television empire that they sold in 1987 for \$755m.

The McCaw fortune grew, however, from the distribution in the late Eighties of wireless telephone licences around the US States by the Federal Communcations Commission.

Markets: Wall Street smashes 5,000 barrier but pound sinks to all-time low as recovery falters

Shares in UK and US streak to records

Economics Correspondent

Share prices in London scaled new heights yesterday, spurred on by a rise on Wall Street that sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average through 5,000 for the first time. But the pound caused consternation by sinking to yet another all-time low against a range of other currencies. Wall Street's sharp move

through the psychologically im-portant 5,000 barrier bolstered London to a record high, up almost 20 points to 3,628.8.

The weekend's agreement between President Bill Clinton and Congress to finance the US government while budget discussions continue, sending 800,000 Federal employees back to work today, was one reason for this advance. A successful auction of US Treasury notes, no longer overshadowed by fears of an immment goverment default, boosted both the bond market and shares.

Financial market expectations of lower interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic within the next month or two also helped fuel the rise in share prices. After weaker-than-expected figures yesterday added to the evidence that the British economy is slowing, the FT-SE 100 index closed up 20 points

James Cornish, an equity strategist at brokers NatWest Securities, said: "We are seeing both a brighter interest rate outlnnk and a US effect."

The same evidence sent the pound to another record low, however. Its index against a range of other currencies closed at 82.2. While it recovered a fraction from Friday's record low against the mark, it broke its normal pattern of tracking the dollar's movements and fell against the US currency. The dollar rose against most European currencies, and by more generous to the voters.

against the pound than against other weak currencies. Both the expectation of a cut in hase rates after next week's Budget and growing political uncertainty are undermining

sterling. Many analysts are nervous about the scale of tax cuts in next Tuesday's Budget, fearing that political pressures will tempt the Chancellor to be too

marked in the non-oil economy,

which grew at just 0.3 per cent.

in 1994 from 3.9 to 4.1 per cent. the latest official statistics showed

that the annual rate of growth

had fallen to 2.1 per cent, well be-

low the 2.75 per cent the Trea-

The picture of a stalling re-

Real GDP growth

% change quarter on quarter

0.0

ed up the annual growth rate

Robin Marshall, chief economist at Chase Manhattan investment bank, said: "Fnreign investors are starting to price in the political considerations. year before an election."

This will force sterling down to new lows." Stephen Lewis of the London Bond Broking Company said: "It would be most unusual for the pound to rise in the However, others thought the

The pound closed at \$1.5460, down from \$1.5516, but recovered from Priday's DM2,1715 to

Filofax chief's current exchange rate weakness could soon be reversed. "A stronger dollar and a well-received UK Budget could drive MAGNUS GRIMOND the pound back up above the DM 2.20 level," James Barty,

Robin Field, the chief executive brought in five years ago to turn round Filofax, was rewarded yesterday with a paper profit of £1.06m after exercising share options. He and two other directors sold shares totalling £2.58m as the company, famous for its personal organisers, announced a 37 per cent rise

in half-way profits.

Mr Field's options were granted in 1992 at an average price of 37p. He immediately sold around 175,000 shares at 268.5p to realise a profit of £405,000, but has retained enough shares to increase his stake in the company from 2.4

per cent to 3.4 per cent. His fellow executive director. Richard Eteson, made a theoretical profit of close to £326,000 from the exercise of options granted at an average price of 41p in 1990 and 1992. His sale of 34,000 shares yesterday netted a profit of £77,000. The two were joined by Richard Koch, a non-executive director, who sold 750,000 shares worth a total of £2.01m. Mr Field is credited with turning round Filofaxafter overexpansinn in the late 1980s. Yesterday the group reported pre-tax profits of £2.91m (£2.12m) for the six months to September. The interim dividend rises to 1.05p (1.35p).

Investment colur

Record consumer credit offsets slowdown the economy in the third quar-

ter was a 2.2 per cent fall in fixed investment. Together with a fur-

ther small deterinration in net

exports, this reduced growth

by half a per cent compared with

the second quarter. However,

these depressive forces were

almost exactly counter-balanced

by a 0.7 per cent rise in con-

sumer spending.

New figures released by In-

come Data Services showed

that four-fifths of autumn pay settlements were between 3 and 4 per cent, barely keeping pace

with inflation. Against this back-ground, a record increase in con-

sumer credit suggested that consumers are borrowing to fi-nance that expenditure. Ac-

UK economist at Deutsche

Morgan Grenfell, said.

PAUL WALLACE and DIANE COYLE

The rate of economic expansion slowed to its lowest level for three years, as a further buildup of stocks aroused fears of further slackening in the months ahead. But a record rise in consumer credit suggested that consumer expenditure could sustain the recovery.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman. said:"Britain is now in a growth recession." Margaret Beckett, Shadow trade secretary, said that "the recovery has not been sustained because it has not been investment-led". The Treasury acknowledged the slowdown, but said the fundamentals remained in place for continuing healthy growth.

The economy grew by just 0.4 per cent in the third quarter, the lowest quarterly rate since the fourth quarter of 1992. The slowdown was even more

covery came as official statisticians revised down their initial Together with revisions, which estimates of quarterly growth in services sector output from 0.7 to 0.6 per cent and pencilled in a higger-than-expected decline in construction output of 1.4 per cent, taking the annual fall to 3.1 per cent. Manufacturing output grew by just 0.2 per cent.
The single most surprising sury considers sustainable for the rest of the 1990s.

feature of the quarterly snapshot of the economy was that stock-building rose by almost £500m on the already high in-ventory increase of £945m in the second quarter. Without this further huild-up in stocks, the economy would have ground to

a halt in the third quarter.
Simon Briscoc, UK economist
at Nikko Europe, warned: "It doesn't look as if the anticipated stock correction has taken place, so it looks as if the next mnnths are likely to see further weakening as the excess stocks are run down

The main factor depressing

cording to the banks, consumer credit rose by £505m, more than double the September increase. A spokesman for the British Bankers' Associating said there was no evidence that last month's unusual increase was due to distress borrowing.

Aid dispute: 🕾

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JOHN EISENHAUMER

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The two of them can not carry on living under the same roof. The way things are going, the argument about who gets the house may be settled for them with an outright takeover bid.

Rocks ahead of mutineers on board C&W

Boardroom rows always make a good stu-ry, particularly when they involve an attempt by mutinous executives to oust a peer of the realm. Unfortunately for Cable & Wireless, the present Borgia-like goings on at the top are all too likely to end in loss of independence. Craig McCaw, the US mobile phones hidionaire, is just itching to get back in the game and probably has the financial backing to do it. With a host of others also running their slide rules over the company, including the giant AT&T, what better time than now to pounce, with the master and first mate openly fighting on the deek and the vessel drifting rapidly towards the rocks?

At this stage, it is hard to know who to hlame for this tragi-comic state of affairs
-Lord Young, the chairman, James Ross, his chief executive, or the company itself, whose position as a medium sized telecoms player m a world full of giants was always bound to make strategy difficult to agree on.

As ultimate boss, the finger must point to Lord Young. A political and entrepreneurial wizz of undoubted marketing skill, Lord Young was a prining at the humans of a target

Young was a virgin at the husiness of a targe multinational corporation before alighting on C & W as his escape route from politics. Like all entreprencurial types, he finds it hard to work with a number two. Even while

in government he was notorious for it. At C&W Lord Young has turned that old adage of there only being room for one boss into a mantra, dispensing with one chief after

quietly ahandoning ship in a few months time with his life-raft full of compensation, he has chosen to fight hack through the press. Both executives and non-executives of outright disapproval, for whatever the wrongs and rights of Mr Ross's position.

washing your dirty tinen like this in public cannot help C&W as a company.

We do not yet know quite how damaging Lord Young's little "entrepreneurial" jollies in the Balkans, Kazakhstan, Israel and elsewhere have been. According to the Ross camp some of them are financially disastrous. Whether Mr Ross's own strategy of cuncentrating resources on the group's "huh" areas of the Far East, Europe and America will prove any more successful is anyone's guess.

One thing is certain. The two of them can-

not carry on living together under one roof. The way things are going, the argument about who gets the house may be settled for them with an outright takeover bid. That per-haps is the best shareholders can hope for.

Mortgage picture is not that bleak

There have been numerous fatse starts as There have been numerous raise starts as the housing market has stuttered into life and conked out again within months. Yes-

building societies paints it. This is a market ready to recover, rather than one struggling to avoid another slump, and Budget tax cuts

look like being the kick start it needs.

The tow tending figure itself is unconvincing and could prove to have been an erratic number. New loan commitments hy the building societies after adjustment for normal seasonal variations have risen by around 4 per cent in the past three months, according to estimates by HSBC Markets, the City brokers. The big banks yesterday said their mortgage lending in October was close to the recent monthly average. Price indicators also point to a stabilising market.

But it is the higger picture of taxation, interest rates and the election timetable that has really changed compared with a year ago. There will be at least two stimuli by next spring. One is tax cuts, the other a drop in mortgage rates. This is the exact reverse of the outlook a year ago.

Base rates had then just begun to rise, and the Budget last year taxed fuet hitls and brought in the second stage of income tax increases, including a scaling back of the tax relief for mortgage interest payments, which together made for a calamitous first hatf of 1995 in the housing market.

Of course, distillusioned homeowners with

ing at such levels could slow any increase in house prices, perhaps to about the same as the increase in personal incomes. HSBC Markets, which is at the optimistic end of the City spectrum, forecasts a rise in prices of o per cent or so in the next sex months.

The other problem is the all-important question of psychology. The calculus about whether it is cheaper to huy or rent still works out firmly in favour of buying, but first time huyers have not yet got over the shock

that house prices go down as well as up.

There is a school of thought that says this experience will be imprinted indelibly on the minds of a generation and that house prices are set for a long decline in real terms, as hap-pened in the 1930s. But it bears repeating that house purchase is more affordable than at any point in the past twenty five years. In any market - and housing has never been different - the turn invariably comes when most players have convinced themselves that the trend of the recent past will continue for ever. That, after all, is what fooled so many peo-ple into buying at the top in 1989.

A Dutch auction of taxes and spending

On the face of it, James Ross's position is equally difficult to defend. Refusing to become one of Lord Yuung's "disappeared," bleak as the headline lending figure from the bleak as the headline lending fig ty. This Dutch auction uf spending and taxation pledges is a depressing spectacle.

The best John Major can venture as a new way of cutting public spending is to invoke the Private Finance Initiative. But rest assured, Kenneth Clarke will still announce in his Budget next week that public spend-ing is to fall before long below 40 per cent. Yet if the Tories have found it so difficult and so traumatic to cut spending in real terms, how much more so will it be for a Lahour government. The party's commitment to social justice will see to that, whatever Gordon Brown may say about his iron belief in fiscal prudence.

The Shadow Chancellor proclaims his objective of reducing the starting rate of income tax to helow the Tories' 20 per cent lower hand. Even cutting it to 15 per cent would cost £4hn. We are not told where the money is going to come from - other than Labour's claim that it will manage the economy better

We urgenity need an honest dehate about spending and taxation priorities. What we do not require is unrealistic objectives and unfunded pledges. Yet on the basis of today's dismal contributions from the two parties, that is what they intend serving us both in the Budget debate and in the election campaign which has

Aid dispute: Rift widens between DTI and the EU

Brussels team to investigate aid for Jaguar plant

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Hopes that Brussels would rubber-stamp the Government's £80m aid package to Jaguar were dealt another blow after the European Commission said it wanted to talk to the car company's suppliers.

Investigators from the Commission's fair trade office are due in the West Midlands over the next week in a move likely to widen the rift between the Government and Brussels.

Relations between London and Brussels have been tense after EU officials complained that the UK had dragged its feet over requests for information about the grants package. The Department of Trade

considered the Commission's approval a formality and it is thought the DTI was irritated by Brussels' interference.

Ford, Jaguar's parent, negotiated the aid as the UK's contribution towards the luxury carmaker's new £400m manufacturing plant in Birmingham, which will build a new small car. The US car giant, which has just offered UK workers an in-

flation-busting pay rise, threat-ened to produce the model in America unless it got the money. Jaguar has said since it would not accept anything less than the full £80m. Brussels has accepted the award of £48m in regional selective assistance, but is concerned about the remainder of the package, from

local authorities and agencies. The Commission team is expected to meet executives from the company, but will also talk to suppliers it believes may be benefiting from local government grants.

petition rule," he said. Such thorough investigations by the Commission are normally for igger state aid issues.

But a Commission official defended the move. "We are required to do this if we think there is a problem with the aid. This is us doing our job properly." He demed that Britain was being singled out for spe-ciat investigation.

The visit also suggests a final decision is some way away, though both sides say it may be possible to settle the issue hefore Christmas.

Last month a DTI official visited Brussels in an attempt to settle a simmering row over claims that the department had been slow to provide information requested by the Competition Commissioner, Karel van

Normally, tacit approval for such aid would be sought from enchaining from local govern-nent grants.

Brussels before it was an-nounced. In July, when Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry negotiations said it was rare for Secretary, announced that Ford Brussels to take such detailed was to build the new X200 "Maybe it has something to do with politics as well as EC competition problems with the aid. One critic of the DTI's handling of the affair told the Independent that the DTI had not

> sion's questions. The award of the money have proved an embarrassment for the Government, and is likely to open the floodgates to other demands for money.



In the picture: Rexam's chief executive, David Lyon, with a giant photograph of actress Cindy Crawford produced using a Rexam process Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Rexam warning shocks the City

MAGNUS GRIMOND :

Rexam, the £2bn packaging and printing group formerly known as Bowater, shocked the stock market by issuing its second profits warning in just over three months yesterday. The shares plunged 37p to 335p as the company said profits are likely to be 20 per cent below last

ly thought through the terms year's level, suggesting a figure of about £185m, after a fall in of the aid, and was having difficulty answering the Commisthe sales margin to 8 per cent. In August it warned the market to expect flat profits for 1995.

David Lyon, chief executive, said destocking by customers had gone on "perhaps tonger

than we expected" after a dra-matic fall in raw materials prices. Polypropylene had fall-prices and low demand. en back to levels seen last year. after rising 100 per cent in the 12 months to June, Mr Lyon said. People were destocking low normal levels and the problem was being compounded by

lower economic growth. Rexam expects the combination to knock £25m off profits this year, with a further £7m or so from stock losses.

Destocking has been most pronounced in the coated products division, which operates mostly in the subdued US markets. The company's two spe-

Mr Lyon said it was unlikely the "storms and squalls" of this year would be as bad in 1996. With raw materials accounting for 40 per cent of total costs, that would make it easier to manage the business.

Rexam said it remained committed to both capital and revenue expenditures both this year and projected for next. However, one analyst said the market's attention was now likely to shift to concerns over the group's balance sheet. Investment Column, page 22

INBRIEF

DBS thrives on independent advice

DBS Management, the Huddersfield-based financial services group, yesterday announced a 26 per cent increase in first half pre-tax profits of £1.3m. The profits rise, which also reflected a 26 per cent increase in turnover to £33.8m, came after charging costs of almost £260,000 as part of the company's move on to the Alternative Investment Market in July. DBS's turnover follows the company's positioning in the past year as the largest network of independent financial advisers in the UK.

Since September 1994, the company's number of advisers has grown from 1,700 to more than 2,100, boosted by its ability to

offer effective and cheap administration and compliance for mem-bers in the wake of tougher financial rules for advisers.

Monitoring problems knock Graseby

Analysts cut their forecasts for the electronic instruments group Graseby by about £4m to between £6.2m and £6.5m, after problems in the group's product monitoring division, normally one of its more reliable operations. The shares fell 13 per cent to 125p.

Ferry Pickering in talks

Shares in the printing and packaging group Ferry Pickering shot up 37p to 171p, a 28 per cent rise, after the group confirmed it was in talks which might lead to an offer being made. Ferry said in September it had received and rejected a tentative bid approach. At its current share price the company is valued at £23m.

Diploma looks for acquisitions

Diploma, the electronics distributor, said yesterday it was looking for acquisitions in all three divisions with expansion of its electronics activities a priority. In the year to September, profits rose 9 per cent to £26.9m after a 13 per cent rise in sales to £216m.

COMPANY RESULTS							
	Turnover E	Pre-tax £	EPS	Divisional			
ABI Leisure (F)	85,3m (70,6m)	4.22m (3.58m)	9.7p (8.4p)	4.35p (4.06p)			
Applied Hotographics (I)	3.47m (3.39m)	0.05m (-0.31m)	0.2p (-1.4p)	nii (nii)			
Capital Group (1)	4.56m (3.51m)	0.84m (0.54m)	4.51p (3.92p)	1.33p (1.2p)			
James Cropper (f)	3.47m (3.39m)	0,60m (1,20m)	4.6p (9p)	1.1p (1.1p)			
Diploma (F)	216m (192m)	27.4m (25.0m)	31.7a (28.9p)	14.5p (13.5p)			
DBS Management (1)	33.8m (26.8m)	1.31m (1.09m)	12.90 (11.70)	3.5p (nll)			
EMAP (I)	334m (234m)	33.9m (22.2m)	10.6p (7,9p)	33.9p (22.2p)			
Fliotax (I)	79.6m (13.7m)	29m (21m)	7.4p (6p)	1.35p (1 05p)			
S Stallordskire Water (1)	30.4m (30.6m)	7.7m (7.09m)	95p (86p)	23p (19p)			
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	(N) - Moe months						

Four big names battle it out for Gartmore

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

The race for Gartmore, the UK fund manager, has entered the closing stage. The Prudential is the main British contender ma field that has narrowed to about four from the large number of mterested parties at the outset.
Aegon, the Dutch insurer,
Berliner Bank, a cash-rich,
state-owned German bank, and

BAT, the tobacco and financial services conglomerate, are the is believed to he in talks also with the Bristol & West Build-

Banque Indozuez, the French bank, put its 75 per cent stake in Gartmore up for sale in Sep-tember. The remaining 25 per cent is in public hands. Gartmore is valued at £600m. Nationsbank the fourth largest bank in the US, which has a joint venture agreement with Gartmore, is still considering whether it should make a firm approach. Under the joint venture terms, it has options on up to 25 per cent of the fund manager's share capital.

Nationsbank, which is advised by Flemings, had earlier been talking to several poten-tial partners for a bid, as a of retained capital, which it is means of getting around the US accounting rule that requires a speedy writing-off of the goodwill in the purchase price.

The Prudential, Britain's largest life insurer, which is being advised by BZW. is understood to be interested in Gartmore to bolster its own investment management operations. Gartmore, which haa

ment, has grown rapidly in re-cent years, and is widely seen to be a successful operation in the highly competitive sector.

Aegon, which is being advised

wide, and is already active in the UK via its controlling interest in Scottish Equitable, the life company. With a market capitalisation of £6.8bn, Aegon, the bulk of whose business is pensions and life-oriented, is not far behind the Pru in size, and is looking to expand its presence in the UK market. Scottish Eqnew business, is the largest provider of pension products in Britain, through Independent Financial Advisers.

Aegon and Scottish Equitable are believed to see an acquisition of Gartmore as a means of reinforcing investthe life and pension products more attractive.

some £24bn under manage-

by Morgan Stanley, is one of the top 20 listed insurers worlduitable, measured by volumes of

ment expertise, and making

Berliner Bank, which is said to be advised by Schroders, is the sixth largest German bank in asset terms. Forged by the recent merger of the state landesbank, a retail and a mortgage now looking to invest in interational expansion. It has bought new City offices which it wants to become the centre of its investment banking operations. Gartmore would give the bank much-needed investment management and equity expertise which it wants to develop with the prospect of pension funds

evolving in Germany.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Much grousing in Yorkshire

Raised eyebrows in the shooting fraternity following an enigmatic message in the Malton Gazette and Herald. An advertisement in the outdoor pursuits corner of the classified section reads: "Gamekeeper appealing for unwanted sweaters, needed for very cold grouse. Tele-phone F Croft."

Can this be Frank Croft, gamekeeper to Sir Lawrie Barratt and the man who runs the house builder's famous Farndale shoot in north Yorkshire? Apparently it is, although what the message means is not clear. The betting is that the ad

is a spoof, placed by a rival gamekeeper to poke fun at the Barratt birds. The Farndale ahoot enjoys a handsome reputation and has consistently topped the local shooting tables. Our beater on the 4,500-acre Farndale estate says the ad was placed by a blonde woman who paid cash, no questions asked.

Internecine warfare between the local landed gentry must now be on the cards. For the record, Sir Lawrie is a keen shot.

This month's award for the most timely piece of research goes to Hoare Govett for its "buy" note on Cable & Wireless. Barely had it hit the streets when the full horror of the tempestuous workmg relationship between Lord Young, the C&W chairman, and James Ross, the chief executive, became

glaringly apparent. "The next talking point will be an upcoming presen-tation on the group's cellular operations," notes the hro-

C&W board goes into crisis meeting to see which execu-tive it can safely jettison. Oddly enough the name on the bottom of the Hoare

Govett note is James Ross. No, surely not? The implications are appalling.

A glance at the most recent edition of *The Estimates Di-*rectory reveals BZW to be out of synch with other brokers over the prospects of Albright & Wilson. You will recall that the chemicals company faited to protect its stranglehold on the formula for liquid laundry detergents when the courts gave SB Chemicals, an Irish upstart, permission to produce 10,000 tonnes of the muck.

Four brokers all downgraded forecasts to around £55m. Not so BZW, the company's broker, which has increased its forecast to £75m. according to the directory.
"Good God, no," guffaws

a BZW man. "Don't believe all that you read in The Estimates Directory." So has BZW also downgraded Albright? "Ahem ... we ... er really would rather not com-

A change in name has done nothing Rexam, the packaging group, which yesterday issued its second profits warning since ceasing to be Bowater (there is a school of thought that this is defeating the object of the exercise). Perhaps sensing a rough ride, David Lyon, chief executive, and Michael Hartnall, finance director, conspired to be a long way from their desks. In Australia, in fact.



For the birds: Warfare looms among the landed gentry

The England rugby team may be in need of some refurbishment following its druhbing at the hands of South Africa on Saturday but the same cannot be said for the corporate hospitality boxes that now grace the new Twickenham stadium. The National Westminster Bank function was particularly agreeable, drawing comparisons with the Barclays do at Wembley for the Rolling Stones concert. The only alarming moments came when the South African VIPs began chanting a crescendo of "Bok Bok Bok" as their team applied pressure. And when they relieved the English VIPs of their money.

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Good news from Emap fails to cheer

There was a storming set of interim figures from Emap, the magazines to more recent Metro Radio buy, could radio group, so the market's unwill- not have been better timed: just as ingness to reward an unexpectedly the industry was increasing its share large profits increase with a share price rise was telling. The failure of shares to respond to good news is one in the past six months it is still way of the signs of the end of a bull run, ahead of Emap's other divisions and so sharebolders should take note of yesterday's unchanged close at 553p.
First, the good news, though. Underlying half-time profits up 70 per derlying half-time profits up 70 per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the benefits of the per cent segmed to confirm the per cen

mercial radio, and the skill of its han-

Empire are actually among the last operating profits. expenditures to go when consumers are cutting back. Even in bad times, the future and, although analysts circulations stay high, cover prices can be increased and advertising yields pushed higher. In the good times, profits and cash flood in, so the division's higher operating margins

Moving into radio, with last year's

cent served to confirm the benefits of in France, compared with nothing at Emap's continuing focus on specialist niche publishing, the timing of its diversifications into France and comin paper costs for the newspaper di vision. Overall costs in regional padling of spiralling newsprint costs.

Specialist magazines such as Motor Cycle News, Angling Times and translated into a 22 per cent rise in pers were held steady, which meant

> Share prices, however, look into were yesterday nudging their forecasts slightly higher to about £82m for the full year, investors are more likely to focus on the company's downbeat comments about the slowing rate of growth in advertising revenues across its activities.

Having risen more than threefold over the past five years, the shares ratio of 20 to next April and a still heady rating in the high teens in the year to 1997. Even for a ship this tight, the advertising cycle will determine the share price and that is

Filofax rise could falter

Filofax has made plenty of money for those who backed new management to pull the personal organiser maker out of the mire. From 13p in 1990, the shares now stand at 269p,

down 6p yesterday. But the rise in the shares has slowed in the last two years and at some stage it is inevitable that doubts will start to creep in about the ability of the chief executive, Robin Field, and his team to maintain the faultup in the recent beady expansion. Pre-tax profits shot ahead 37 per cent to £2.91m in the six months to Sepfuture with a 29 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 1.35p.

The UK market, the most mature for the original Filofax organiser, is still clocking up growth of between 10 and 15 per cent. But having picked up its nearest rival, Topps of England, in a £6.6m deal earlier this year, the group now controls a commanding 85 per cent of its domestic market, limiting future market share gains.

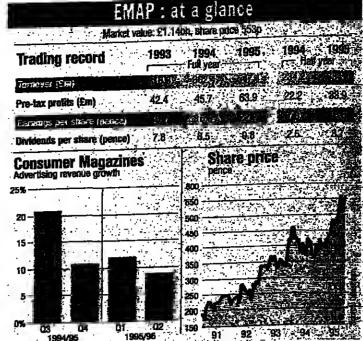
That puts the onus on the rest of the world and diversifications into greetings cards, pens and office notepads. Filofax itself still has plenty to go for on the Continent, with the four subsidiaries there reporting growth in excess of 50 per cent in the half year and spending on organisers in France and Germany way below that in the UK.

core operation, while also juggling with developing businesses. A fullyear result of £6.8m would put the shares on a forward p/e of 17. Holdtember, with management demon-strating its own confidence in the ample of some of the management yesterday and take some profits.

Heed warning from Rexam

Two profits warnings later, Rexam, Britain's biggest packaging group, has underperformed the rest of the stock market by nearly 36 per cent since it reported in May that tradition continues.

large" to be helpful.
To be fair, the difficulties that prompted yesterday's warning of profits one-fifth below the 1994 figure of £231m have been experienced across the market. And Rexam was not alone in thinking the destocking that followed the levelless momentum built up through the recovery phase. Yesterday's half-bandling that level of growth in the lier this year was a temporary



phenomenon. It wasn't, and the am to announce in August that it ex-pected flat profits this year bas

continued into the fourth quarter.

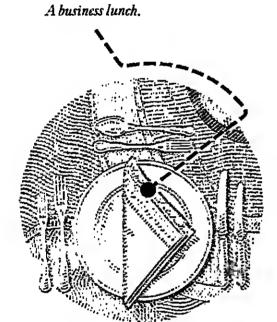
downs of stock values at the yearweak demand that prompted Rex- end. Profits of £185m this year would put the shares, down 37p at sected flat profits this year bas 335p, on prospective multiple of 15. But the real question is how Rexam fares in 1996. Even if profits to profits, falling plastic resin prices and the threat of lower paper prices is likely to lead to some write-

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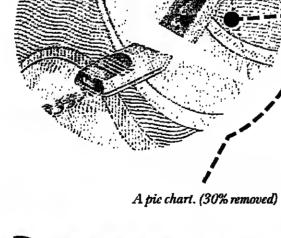
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US balances while British deficit burns



ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

Onew 10p in the pound tax hand, but what will it do about the deficit?

It is always difficult for the markets to hit it right on day one, for second thoughts are usually better than knee-jerk reactions, Nevertheless, the positive response to the US budget deal shouts that this is pretty near the top end of the range of expectations. It charted a clearer path to the balanced hudget than had been expect-

ed, and more important, one that might actually be followed. If that is right, and it will be year or two before we know for sure, the US has estahlished a new global standard. Governments around the world will have to show some credible path lowards a halanced udget if they wish to borrow on half-reasonable terms. The US government already borrows at lower real interest rates than any other large industrial country, with the possible exception of Japan. Stir in a dash of fiscal responsibility and this begins to become a significant comparative advantage, not so much for the government itself and for its taxpayers, but for the

business community as a whole. The lower the real interest rate at which the state can bor-

Tax at 10p in

the pound is a

sideshow. A

on the way

row, the lower the real interest rates at which companies can borrow. Surc. giant multinaionals will simply raise funds in which- ever market will do the best deal and in which-

ever currency ever currency close enough to suits, so this will confer little the official start date for Eurocomparative advantage to large US-based corporations. But further down the scale, companies that do not have access to international markets, cheap money will matter. Just wait.

Here in Britain we are in the final glide-path to the Budget. There have been the usual clutch of stories about the size of the net tax "give-away" to ex-pect in a week's time, with the original £2bn figure creeping up towards the £4hn mark, notwithstanding the undershoot on the revenue side.

In the last couple of days the evidence of slower-thanthought growth in the second quarter, and a hetter-than-expected retail price performance has led to the idea that it will somehow be easier for the Chancellor to justify larger lax cuts. Note that there has hardly been any comment about the impact on the deficit, except in the general terms of a rise being acceptable to the markets.

As for the Government's official position on borrowing, it remains the general one that the objective is to balance the hudget over the medium-term economic cycle. But no one seriously believes that, were the Tories to be re-elected, the budget would be balanced (ie surpluses would match deficits) over the next five or 10 years. The stated policy is therefore

meaningless.

Meanwhile, from Labour there is this new (and in its own terms perfectly sensible) plan 10

ure, Labour can hring in a soften the entry into the income tax threshold by bringing in the new 10 per cent starting rate. But there is nothing about the much more important issue of the proposed fiscal stance. Would a Labour government seek some limit on its power to borrow? Does it have any view about the morality of borrowing, given that a deficit is de-

ferred taxation? In other words, the discussionwe are seeing in Britain, in the run-up to our Budget, is on a quite different plane to that in the US, where the common ground has been the need for .. fiscal restraint, and the main discussion about alternative paths to virtue. I suspect that in another five years the sort of debate we are having here willseem as antique as the British budget debates of the 1950s and 1960s, when there was endless argy-bargy about "the fiscal judgement": how much "de-mand" the Chancellor ought to.

'miect" into the economy. So what happens next? I don't think anything will happen ahead of the election. We will have this Budget, and it will be discussed by most people in the usual shrill, politicised way. We may or may not have another Tory Budget, for it is not clear that the present Government

will make it to November next year. But after the election I think the tone of the debate will alter, for two reasons.

bigger battle is Firstly, withpean Union we will be getting

pean Monetary Union that the Maastricht conditions will be dragging deficits below the 3 per cent of GDP level. Individual countries may or may not make it, hut everyone will be talking about fiscal deticits in a new and

Second, and more tant, the new world standard will ... start to assert itself. Markets will. want to see some progress towards the balanced hudget, even if that progress is pretty token, just as they want to see some progress towards an independent central bank.

Together these forces will exert a pincer movement on deficits: politics (at least within the EU) and markets will be converging on the same point. Result: a sea change in the way public-sector deficits are regarded.

Expect British politicians to catch up, with voices from both political parties pressing for deficit reduction, on the grounds of equity as much as efficiency. What is difficult to see at the moment is whether the voices will be stronger from the left or the right. That may de-pend on the result of the eleclion, for it is self-evidently easier for the out-of-office lot to call for a balanced budget than for the ones in power to de-

But that is all to play for. Meanwhite, reflect on the narrowness of the current debate. A starting rate of income tax at 10p in the pound is a sideshow. A bigger battle is on the way.

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94.58 - 0.15 SHARE SPOTLIGHT

BT

As shares stretched to yet an group's smooth-talking chairother peak one of the Gov-

ernment's biggest privatisation adventures slumped to its lowest for three years. Two months ago BT was riding at a 414p peak. Since then make modest headway, gain-

the stock market has become increasingly alarmed about the growing array of competition that scems to threaten the group, and its seemingly unhappy relationship with the industry regulator. The suspicioo that job cuts

and other cost savings, plus the controversial link with Tony Blair, represent BT's insignifhigher at 3,628.8. The market, despite cautious icant answer to its problems are worrying the market.
So BT is, in iovestment terms, dialling the wrong num-bers. The shares fell a further

5p to 356p in husy trading with turnover printed at 26.4 million, indicating small investors, for so long fans of BT, are los-

BT's discomfort occurred on a day when even British Gas, recently humping along at its year's low, managed to

ing 0.5p to 238p.

But although British was not the market's favourite prefix - even British Airways lost height - the confident mood, so evident last week, kept shares oo a roll with the FT-SE 100 index closing 19.6 poiots

signals, remains convioced an interest rate cut is near and the economic background is looking increasingly favourable for the sort of teasing Budget the Tories so desperately need. Weekend stories that Granada was about to deseend on a hotel group had the expected impact with Lad-

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

bling setbacks and scoring a 5.5p gain to 132.5p and Forte moving ahead 9p to 271p. Granada, results tomorrow added 20p to 700p with talk of a 30 per ceot profits gain to

Such is the excitable state of the market that there is even talk Granada could bid for Pearson, up 7p at 655p. Al-though the Coronation Street group is believed to be on the verge of expansion most observers expect its next bid to be rather less ambitious than the actioo. likes of Forte and Pearsoo.

Packaging and paper shares firm with SBC Warburg mak-

Stock Exchange grey market in will produce another, if rethe shares opens tomorrow.

The shares fell 37p to 335p. dragging down the already dis-illusioned Arjo Wiggins Appleton 12.5p to 180p. David S Smith gave up 10.5p to 255p. On the electrical pitch Graseby fell 18p to 125p on a

profit warning the boardroom power struggle at Cable & Wireless left the shares 3p higher at 420p.

BTR rose 5p to 338p with
NatWest Securities supportive,
but the sterling/Australian dol-

lar rate prompted much of the The electricity utilities were

duced, loss of £3m.

Fioancial shares cootinued to bubble. Legal & General added 9p to 684p on dividend considerations; Standard Chartered gained 11p to 557p as talk continued to circulate of a takeover strike.

BICC remained in the takeover frame with stories three buyers were pursuing its housebuilding division adding to the interest. The shares rose 5p to 281p.

Cortecs International, the

hio babe, drifted 2p lower to 145p although Dr Erling Refsum's dedication to the group remains undimmed. The Yamaichi analyst drew

increased marketing prospects and, he believes, lifted the underiving asset value to 270p.

attention to recent deals which

The group, floated last year

BT misses out on the party as competition fears rise

Beverley, the hard-pressed engineer that managed a Hou-dini-like escape from corporate disaster, moved ahead 0.25p to 1.5p after its moderately encouraging trading statement and £850,000 placing to fund

developments.

Applied Holographics' surprising interim profit left the shares 7p down at 98p but printer Ferry Pickering leapt 37p to 171p as it disclosed talks that could lead to a bid.

Toy Options, which came to market at 65p in June, jumped 14p to 101p. It has become the latest UK group to achieve a Walt Disney link, being appointed distributor for the toy range of a new Disney film to

be premiered here in March. Groupe Chez Gerard held at 197p. Teather & Greenwood,

making computer services group where there has been talk of a shareholder oprising, held at 22p, a low.

The company, the old Maddox Group, has failed to meet expectations and there is talk that it will be put out of its misery by a takeover bid. Stratagem, up 3p at 170p, is the favourite to

Millennium, a motor distributor that used to be the fully-quoted European Energy, is on its way to the JP Jenkins Ofex share market. It is raising up to £1.9m, offering shares at 1.5p. The group has sold its mining operations and, under the direction of Gerald Davison, former head of Keep Trust and director of UK operations for Honda, is

350 J J A S O N	for so long fans of BT, are los- ing patience with Sir Iain Val- lance, the telecommunications	expected impact with Lad- broke, owner of the Hilton chain, overcoming its gam-	were shredded as Rexam, the	ing an unofficial market in Na- tional Grid shares. The spread	at 44p, should, it is suggested, make profits of £30m next year, although the curreot year	the stockbroker, expects profits to climb from £2.3m to £3m this year with £3.9m oext. operations for Honda, is seeking to expand its ear and parts distribution business.
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Paradoxically, the professionalisation of the game means that players will behave more like footballers: hugging, even kissing

Saturday. Jim Fleming, has not been having the best of presses. I am not normally inclined to come to the defence of referces. On this occasion I should at least like to enter a

From the back row of the press box, almost on the half-way line, it appeared to me too that Chester illiams had not scored that first disallowed try. "Looked a perfectly good try," a colleague next to me said. But he had taken a peep at the television replay on one of the sels in the row immediately beneath us (for this is a service made available cost me money if I had backed my in the press boxes of most of the major international grounds).

And of course he and the television were right. Fleming and I ferent ideas, and indicated that the

at the time that the ball would not have travelled forward as far or fast as it did unless it had been bounced instead of grounded. Not so. In this area, as in others, the machine is mightier than man.

Then, in Williams's first allowed try, it was he who clearly felt he had not grounded the ball properly, for he turned sharp right to ground it nearer the posts. Alternatively, he wanted to make assurance doubly sure. Or, again, he thought he would give a much-needed present to Joel Stransky (who would have guess of a 20-points margin in South Africa's favour).

The referee, however, had dif-

The referee at Twickenham last wrong. However, it seemed to me conversion should be taken from the touchline-point where Williams had first grounded - or not grounded the ball. Simultaneously, Williams was making a little bow, presumably indicating: "Nobody can argue with this one.

> There was an occasion when an England player attempted a more elaborate effort. This was Mike Burton, then of Gloucester, now the well-known entrepreneur. He made it after being sent off at Johannes-burg in 1972 when England beat South Africa. Poor Burton was denounced up hill and down dale by the stuffier elements among British rugby commentators. Anyone would have thought the belligerent prop had taken down his shorts in front of the stand instead of giving a bow.



on rugby

Today that same movement, admittedly less courtly than Burton's, and made in different circumstances arouses no adverse comment or. indeed, remark of any kind. I am not

Paradoxically, however, the professionalisation of the game means that players will behave more like footballers: jumping up and down, raising one another aloft, hugging, even kissing. The South Africans showed a marked tendency towards exuberant behaviour of this nature. This was because they had more to be exuberant about. François ("average") Pienaar embraced both ms and the other try-scorer. loost van der Westhuizen.

Though one thinks of Afrikaansspeaking white South Africans (who composed the hulk of this team) as being as tightly buttoned-up as. say. Ulstermen, they clearly have feelings they are not embarrassed

The trouble with England was that Jack Rowell, together with circumstances, had taken out the team's backbone, in both metaphorical senses of that word. Mike Catt was shifted from full-back to outsidehalf. Television, because of its inability to show relative distances, masked the unhappiness of his display, at any rate until the final quarter. He spent most of the time trying to do what Roh Andrew would have done better. Kyran Bracken devolved all the responsibility on Catt, whereas the retired

Dewi Morris would have gone off on frolics of his own. Technically Mark Regan proved a more than adequate substitute for Brian Moore. His throwing-in, in

saying it should. Rugby ought not to to express, on or off the field. particular, was exemplary, and accounted for much of the possession won by Martin Bayfield and Martin Johnson. But what shall it profit a team if they shall gain all the line-out possession in the whole world, and lose the match?

Ben Clarke had an excellent game but was no leader in the Dean Richards mould. Tim Rodber looked out of sorts, while Andy Robinson was largely anonymous. Damian Hopley was gallant but, as we knew, lacked the speed of an in-ternational wing. Rory Underwood does have the speed but spent most of the afternoon, not for the first time, in a catatomic trance. Rowell will have to make changes. He might start with some simple lessons on how to catch a rugby ball.

Aga back

HINTINGDOM

13 Digg war.

THREETO

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SIS

Atherton left to rue more rain

Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON reports from Pretoria

When England decided to bring their own doctor to South Africa, they doubtless had such things as sunstroke and upset stomachs on their minds, but if the Darwinian theory of evolution holds any water, he will soon be called upon to deal with a nasty outbreak of webbed feet.

Apart from the South Africa A game in Kimberley, it has rained during every game so far. and for the past three and a third days of the opening Test match, England were not so much in need of the services of captain Atherton as captain Nemo.

There was one last attempt to play some cricket here yesterday. when a combination of a break in the clouds and Centurion Park's remarkable drainage prompted the announcement of a 2pm resumption. At precisely 1.58pm, it began hosing down again, and although it stopped at 2.05pm, the fed-up quotient had already prompted a "match abandoned" announcement.

As a resident of Manchester. England's captain would not have been unfamiliar with this kind of weather, but it did not make it any less exasperating. "We felt that we had got our-selves into a good position on Friday, and that the pitch would have become a little bit worse to bat on had the game run its full course." Atherton said.

South Africa, not surprisingly, put a slightly different perspective on it, their own captain, Hansie Cronje, saying: "We made a mistake with reading the pitch, and were disappointed with the way we bowled. Even so, England's total was not that special, and we fancied making

as over generous an estimate as the United Cricket Board of South Africa's projected attendance figures, the weather certainly hit their pocket, and the first home Test match against England for 30 years ended up costing them around £200,000.

Having announced their team for this Test two weeks in advance, play had not even been called off yesterday when they named their 12 for the second Test in Johannesburg.

The one change is unlikely to have England sweating with fright, Meyrick Pringle, a right arm medium swing bowler, replacing Brett Schultz, a left arm fast-medium bowler who has both a buttock problem and a communication problem. The South Africans did not

take it too well when Schultz suffered a recurrence of his burtock strain after four halls of his first over, and their managing director of cricket, Ali Bacher, yesterday described it as a "fiasco". This is because the amount of

medical advisers they have probably costs them more than the lost Test match gate receipts, and yet they still took Shultz's word that he was fit rather than referring him to a specialist.

South Africa are also likely to change their all pace-bowler strategy for the Johanneshurg Test, although they have not taken the bold path advocated hy most cricket followers, who would like to pick Paul Adams. the left-arm wrist spinner who caused England so many problems in Kimberley.

Instead, they have stuck with the orthodox left-arm finger spinner Clive Eksteen, although their chairman of selectors. Peter Pollock, made the curious been picked in the expectation of getting anyone out. "Not loo many spinners win Test matches While this might have been these days," Pollock said. "But dle of Kimberley.

we have chosen Eksteen to do a job." Whatever that job was, Pollock declined to elaborate.

England now move on to Bloemfontein for a four-day game against Orange Free State, but they will not be facing Allan Donald after the South African Test panel instructed Donald's State side to leave him out. Instead, Donald will work with the coach, Bob Woolmer,

The power to do this comes from a new piece of legislation which contracts South Africa's Test players to their Board rather than their State, something which the Test and County Cricket Board might get around to copying should they ever decide that a winning England team is of any great importance.

Raymond Illingworth, who spent the hack end of last summer appealing unsuccessfully for Yorkshire not to risk Darren Gough's foot injury, not surprisingly said that the TCCB should have a say in whether players should or should not play between Test appearances. Sadly, the TCCB has no in-

fluence when it comes to picking their overseas supporters, and there was depressing evidence from the electronic scoreboard yesterday - "BARMY ARMY!" it kept flashing up as the familiar band of inchriates launched into one of their mindless chants - that the South Africans regard this lot as even more cute than the Australians did last summer.

Then the Barmies were granted something akin to the freedom of Bendigo. Although it is a mool point as to whether the freedom of Bendigo qualifies as an honour, one can only hope that this time they get the admission that Eksteen had not freedom of something more appropriate. Just a suggestion, hut there is an extremely large disused mining hole in the mid-



McGrath seals series for Australia

Australia 267 and 306 Pakistan 198 and 220 Australia won by 155 runs

Australia proved that they can win even without their master leg-spinner Shane Warne by thrashing Pakistan by 155 runs in the second Test in Hobart yesterday to wrap up the threematch series.

The fast bowler Glenn Mc-Grath shouldered the extra re-

sponsibility in Warne's absence crucial stage of the match yesby taking five wickets to dismiss the tourists for 220 in their sec
Pakistan. set a daunting 376,

Australia were forced to rely on pace after Warne, a repeated match winner in recent years. was unable to bowl at the Bellerive Oval because of a broken toe he sustained on Friday.

The all-rounder Greg Blewett played a vital support role for Australia by claiming his first wickets in Test cricket at a

ond innings with a day to spare.

Australia were forced to rely

Grath flattened the middle stump of Mushtaq Ahmed for eight, one hour before the scheduled close. Mark Taylor. Australia's captain, won the man of the match award for

scores of 40 and 123. Aamir Sohail, the Pakistan hatsman, was later fined half his match fee and handed a sus-

The International Cricket Council match referee, Raman Subba Row, imposed the penalties after ruling that

Sohail's actions had brought the game into disrepute. (Fourth day of five: Australia won toss) AUSTRALIA – First Innings 267 (M E Waugh 88; Mushtaq Ahmed 5-115). PAROSTAN - First Innings 198 (Ramu Raja 59; P R Redfet 4-36). AUSTRALIA - Second Innings 306 (M A Taylor 123, M J Stater 73; Mushlaq Ahmed 4-83).

Ecoras (811) 17 Total (84.3 overs) 220
Falt: 1-27, 2-62, 3-132, 4-142, 5-152, 8-157, 7-205, 8-210, 9-220.

Bowling: McDemott 16-7-38-0; McGrath 24-37-62-5; Reifiel 14-6-42-3; M E Waugh 12-2-24-0; 5 R Waugh 8-1-19-0; Skewett 10-4-25-2.

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(Source: B.M.R B. Survey 1995. The figure refers to +3% of people interviewed aged to and over and not retired who had Source: B.M.R. B. Survey. 1.775. The figure refers to \$3.5 of people intersteemen aged to and over and not retured who had made no pension arrangements of their own.) For your security and to assist in in improving our service to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. Pension products are provided by Abbey National Life pic. Stopping contributions in the early years may result in a transfer or paid up value which is less than the contributions paid. The value of investments and any income from them may fall as well as use, is not quaranteed and, therefore, you may not get back to full amount you lives! Abbey National pie. Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom ABBEY NATIONAL PLC, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, ONLY SELLS ITS OWN LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSION AND UNIT TRUST PRODUCTS.

Stemp has Pakistan stumped

Pakistan A 137 and 147 England A won by an innings

Nasser Hussain, the England A captain, lead his country to a crushing victory over Pakistan in Multan yesterday and is convinced that the younger generation can bring England a new era of sustained success.

"We have now won five out of five on this tour which is hrilliant. But, at the same time, we must not lose sight of the fact that the main object of this tour is to get people ready to go into the full Test side," Hussain said.

"I believe that the state of English cricket is going for-ward at the moment, especially with the things Mike Atherton is trying to do with the senior Test side."

The career of Billy Cobb will not be recalled readily, perhaps, by many football supporters, even

those of the four League clubs he served. He does, however, have

one unique claim to fame - it was ha who scored Nottingham Forest's first goal in Europe, against Valencia in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1961-62.

Not that it did Forest a lot of good Regree 5-1, at the Creater Care.

good. Beaten 5-1 at the City Ground, they went out 7-1 on aggregate. It was a fortuitous goal,

too: a free-kick intended as a cross. "Yes, it was a fluke,"

England won by an innings and 43 runs against a Pakistan side boasting four full Test players. Dean Headley (5 for 34) and Richard Stemp (5 for 64) cleaned up yesterday morning as Pakistan lost their last five wickets for 32 runs in just over an hour's play. Headley, who overall took 6 for 63 from 48 overs to earn the man-of-thematch award, went straight to bed for a well earned rest.

"Dean's absolutely knackered," Hussain said. "But on a lifeless pitch he bowled hrilliantly and gave me everything. He wasn't feeling too well today either - I can't speak highly enough of the effort."

Stemp was happy to have resuscitated an international career that looked to be taking off in India last winter but was then stalled during a poor summer with Yorkshire.

John Emburey, the team manager, a member of the illfated 1987 tour of Pakistan, knows only too well how difficult it is to beat the Pakistanis on their home soil, let alone give them a drubbing well inside four days. In 18 Tests in Pakistan, spread over six senior tours, England have won only once - back on their first trip in 1961-62.

(Fourth day of five; Palostan won toss)
PARISTAN A – Farst trunings 137 (Shadid Anwar 50; 1D K Salebury 6-39).
ENGLAND A – First trunings 227 U E R Galban 62, R C Iran 58, N Hussain 52; Mohamman Zheid 167.

Northants sign WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

John Emburey, in Pakistan as manager of England A, has been appointed Northamptonshire's chief coach. Emburey has agreed a four-year deal and takes up his post in January. The 43-year-old former Middlesex off-spinner will team up with Roh Bailey, who takes over from Alian Lamb as skipper for 1996, and his former England

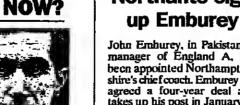
ests for him to play."

in Mansfield Road, Nottingham for cross. "Yes, it was a fluke," 20 years before taking early re-Cobb said, "but the record books don't tell anyone that." It was a great night," he added, "but the Spaniards were "stadium, on a part-time basis. As Forest's guest at this year's added, "but the Spaniards were just brilliant. We were probably too second-round Uefa Cup match

nice a team."

Leaving behind a side that to recall his experiences. "They nicluded Peter Grummatt and Geoff Vowden, the Newark-born winder shart less than five years." winger spent less than five years "It felt a bit strange, really. When with Forest before playing under Cloughie was there he ddn't en-Malcolm Allison at Plymouth, courage ex-players, unless they moving to Brentford and Lincoln and finishing in the Northern a job getting in for a drink."

Premier League with Boston. Thereafter he became a pub-



colleague Neil Foster, who is the county's new development coach. However, it is not clear whether Emburey, widely regarded as Raymond Illing-

worth's natural successor in charge of England's Test side, will play for his new county. Steve Coverdale, the Northants chief executive, refused to rule out Emburey from continuing on the field, but said: "He feels it may not be in Northamptonshire's best inter-

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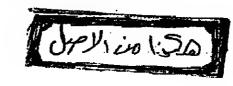
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Ability starts to count at the Club

Racing **GREG WOOD**

"It is my belief that no one day when the Jockey Club should be prevented from at least applying to become a lo-cal racecourse steward." Anthony Mildmay-While, the to become just a little less chairman of the Jockey Club's stressful. Disciplinary Committee, said yesterday. "The system should be based on ability, not social acceptability." It is hard to say went against them (indeed, which is the greater surprise: an open-minded, forward-looking statement from a senior Club official, or the fact that he did not image of local stewards immediately retire next door drunken, inbred, myopic, unwith a revolver to do the decent

ter on the decline of Empire and aristocracy. In future, after problem which the Jockey Club will be able to apply directly to Khartoum and the end of the now seems ready to lackle Portman Square. Raj, expect a few lines on the head-on.

All puoters nurture at least one painful memory of a perverse stewarding decision which some hitter souls can reel off dozens). In many cases, it is the money talking, but the popular qualified half-wits who learned all they know about rucing from Instead, historians prepared playing Newmarket after lightsa hurried appendix to the chap- out in the prep-school dorm -

opened its doors to commoners. the man to whom the local stewards ultimately answer seemed to aeknowledge the problem by damning the present incumbents with the faintest of praise. "I'm not saying that those people in the system are had," he said, "but in the 1990s we must show the industry that we take it seriously. We are trying to put increased quality control into the system.

Once, the recruitment of stewards by racecourses could amount to little more than a that stewards' inquiries are conone-question interview ("I say Monty, how d'you fancy a spot of stewardin"? Family tradition,

'We have only tended to get Mildmay-White himself - the names that racecourses have put forward," David Pipe, the Club's director of public affairs, said, "but here at Portman Square social acceptability is not a criterion at all. It is important that everybody who feels they may have time to devote can write to us directly and not to racecourses where they may know no one at all."

To coincide with the anticipated injection of fresh, quali-ly-controlled blood, a series of intiatives will attempt to ensure ducted with more speed, pro-fessionalism and consistency. All would-be stewards will be re-

for Quest

Rough Quest was the mover in

the market for Saturday's Hen-

nessy Gold Cup after delighting

his trainer, Terry Casey, as the gelding teamed-up with his big-race jockey, Jamie Osborne.

like a buck," the trainer said.

Quest 6-1 (in from 7-1) behind

One Man (13-8) in latest bel-

ting on the £70,000 Newbury

race, for which only 14 horses

were declared at yesterday's

William Hill make Rough

"Jamie schooled him over six

quired to complete a 10-day reduce betting turnover and course of instruction - at present, inductioo takes just two days - before they can serve as probationary members of a local panel. Before they can chair an inquiry, candidates must complete a further two-day course, involving a written examination and a video-based questionnaire on actual racecourse incidents.

"Undoubtedly some people will fail," Mildmay-While said, but I want to see a system where we never allow in those stewards who will never progress forward. If a local steward appears to be perverse in his decision-making process, he will have to answer for it." Protracted delays in announcing the results of inquiries

HUNTINGDON

2.18: Martha's Daughter will never reach the heights of her half-brother, Martha's Son, but she may still prove good enough for this weak affair. Her fourth to Home From The Hill in February is the best form on offer in a roce that is difficult to

on offer in a race that is difficult to find anything to back against her.

2.45: Martha's Son pulled of one of racing's great escape acts when re-covering from a horrendous blunder at the last to hold off Deep Sensa-

at the test to hold our Deep Sensa-tion to win this last year. The eight-year-old is reported to be in great form at home and will take all the beating. Travado, however, may just have the edge, with a winning run al-ready under his saddle and in receipt

of 4lb from Martha's Son, Coniton

and Docklands Express, who may both be caught out for pace.

3.20: It would be appropriate if Wandha won this in front of the tele-

vision cameras, If any horse typilles the sort of animal that Huntingdon's winning enclosure usually plays host to then this game fellow is it. Four

times Wamdha has landed the spoils

at Huntingdon this year and he looks

charyf's Lad represents the danger judged on some promising performances last year,

thus racing's return from the Levy. New ideas to speed the process up include a reduction in the time allowed for riders' objections from five to three minutes, immediate access to television pictures from all angles, and the resolution of cases of accidental interference without recourse to an inquiry at all. It may also be possible to clear winners of involvement in interference before an inquiry

With so much at stake, there will always be someone prepared to disagree with any stewarding decision. Yet if the overall result of the oew system is faster. smarter and more consisteot stewarding, most punters will say long live the revolution.

CHELTENHAM

2.25: Zajira was going so well on her latest outing at Wincanton when un-scating her rider that she should not be overlooked. Palden Pride may give her the most problems after failing to land a four-timer at Haydock earlier this month. ∞

3.60: Dextra Dove's run of victories may finally be coming to an end as shown by his flattering 13-length de-feat of Southolt at Ucoxeter, 11 was only the fact that the second lin-ished lame that let Dextra Dove record his six successive wio Bankroll is capable of landing this, if he can put the tumble at Ludlow a fortnight ago behind him.

3.35: Adrian Maguire's fall at Ascot on Friday denied Putty Road the du-bious benour of giving Large Action 10lbs. There is nothing of that class bere and the five-year-old can con-quer his dislike of lively ground.

Aga back with Cumani **Hennessy** money

Luca Cumani is 10 receive 15

British racing in general and Bedford House in particular." the Aga Khan, as the owner begins to re-establish a British needs and welcomes successful base. With the removal of Sheikh Mohammed's horses for the competition and interfrom Heory Cecil's stable, est their horses generate. Cumani should be able to confirm his status among the leading trainers with the influx of

some prime thoroughbreds.

Together with his fellow Newmarket trainer Michael Stoute. Cumani suffered most when the Aga withdrew his horses from Britain in 1990 after a row with the Jockey Club following the disqualification of his ness's yearlings after an absence Stoute-trained 1989 Oaks win-

Cumani, who trained the will arrive al his Bedford House stable before the end of the year. "The Aga Khan's decision

LOO My Key Silca

SIS

1.35 Golden Madjambo 2.10 Martha's Daughter

HUNTINGDON

GOING: Chase course - Good (Good to Firm in places); Hurdle course - Good to Firm.

Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds.

Resecutive is at junction of A1 and A604. Huntingdon Railway Station (service from London, King's Cross) is 1 mile away. ADMISSION: Members £12; Taxansalls £8; Course £4. CAR PARK: Picnic area £1; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS; E Bailey — 14 winners from 39 runners gives a Riccess ratio of 85.9% and a profit to a \$1 keel stake of \$25.46; Il Nicholson — 14 winners, 50
runners, \$2.9%, +\$16.72; if 64ford — 13 winners, 65 runners, 20.9%, +\$2.03; Capt
T Forster — Il winners, 55 runners, 18.2%, \$23.46.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS! A Magnire — 23 winners, 124 rides, 18.5%, \$3.62; R Dunwoody — 16 winners, 104 rides, 14.4%, \$3.3.44; N Williamson — 13 winners, 57 rides,
22.9%, \$2.20; Faul Bide — 11 winners, 46 rides, 23.9%, +\$21.73.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Amazon Express (3.20) and The Blue Boy (3.50) have been sent 244 miles by P Bowen from Haverfortwest, Dyfed; Copper Coil (1.00) has been sent 160 miles by W G M Turner from Corton Denham, Somerset.

1.00 HOUGHTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G)

£2,400 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £1,898

7 POPS-2 VILLANS BRIEF (L4) (9F) () A Machinelly K Burke 5 10 5.

8 523919 BALTZNO (s) (Nr J P Hibb) N Tolker 6 10 2.

9 005P THE CRIMINAN (C2) (Or larn R Sherikel) F Jordan 4 10 0.

10 549-55 POMITE-RECORNO BELLA (22) (Ms Holes Carlet Ms L Lovel 9 10 D.

— 10 declared —

African weight: 10st. True handcop weight: The Cruiman 9st 12th, Porteyeachlo Belle 9st 8th.

BETTENS: 7-2 Villates Brief, 4-1 Copper Coll, 9-2 Weid, My Key Silva, 7-1 Bettino, 10-1 Alway

1.35 JACK RAMPLY MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,929

Cumani said. "British racing owner-breeders of this calibre

"My staff and I greatly look forward to receiving His Higb-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Wamdha (Huntingdon 3.20) NB: Zajira (Cheltenham 2.25)

of five years and thank him for

bis renewed support."
The Aga said of Cumani: "I Aga's 1988 Derby winner, am hopeful he will be as sue-Kahyasi, expects the new intake cessful for me as he was in the past. This development will significantly strengthen my presence in British racing which to have horses trained in Eng- recommenced this year when I land again is great news for had a number of runners

> 2.45 Travado (nb) 3.20 Warndha 3.50 Fairy Park

trained by my Irisb trainer, Mr John Oxx. The Aga originally used Stoute and Fulke Johnson-

Houghton as his trainers in

Britain, but by the time of the Aliysa affair, Cumani and Stoute had 78 of his horses between them while Alain de Royer-Dupre trained for him in France. When he withdrew from British racing, the Aga retained Oxx to train for him in Ireland for the first time. Both he and Royer-Dupre will continue fences this morning and he seemed very happy—he jumped with the owner, but Stoute, who handled the Aga-owned Derby winners Shergar and Shahrastani, has been left out. Because the Aga will have almost one-third fewer yearlings tban when he left the British scene, he does not believe that

1994: Pasteo 7 11 5 R Durmoody 5-4 (N Henderson) 6 ran

BETTING: 5-4 Golden Manijambo, 3-1 Lucky Doller, 9-2 Solo Gent, 6-1 Strong John, 8-1 Lydeni Seni,

2.10 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NH NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added

2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,495

FORM GUIDE

This marks' senes does throw up the occasional weak race and this one will take little winning with Merilleum put up as a wable alternative to BARTHA'S DAUGHTER, a holf-sister to Martha's Son. It Heddey and Pettaugh came up tumps for Geoff Hubbard at Folkestone yesterday and Mortens, out of a whung jumper, was son, for a Sandown bumper on her introduction last March. She finished well back, but might easily be also to the required standard in this company, Marthe's Daughter has when might be a decisive edge in experience and through she has shown only a mortice and company as far, her forth of 20 to Home.

From The Hill here last February suggests that this might be her day. Reet Day took so-ond behind 20-length winner Covine at Wincenton last month and has since run moderately in hendlands. She has a chemoe if Martin's Douglater is below part, while the non-throughthed mare Wordy's Wind showed a glimmer of ability in a Wetherby bumper last October.

2.45 PETERBOROUGH CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) E25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Valve £15,775

he can maintain a meaningful Totat: 13-8 One Mon, 13-2 Earth Summit, 7-1 Rough Quest, 9-1 Couldn't Bo Better, Jo-doms, Young Hustler, 12-1 Black Humour, Chatham, 16-1 Monsteur Le Cure, 20-1 Co-gent, Supenor Finish, 25-1 Guus A Buck, 40-1 Bishops Hall, Grange Brake. presence with more than three trainers. However, he expects to be able to send horses to Stoute's yard in the near future,

acceptance stage.

Crase at Aintree in April, the key factor being Martha's Son's missed round of jumping. A dab hand at racing right-handed, Martha's Son had a fine campaign otherwise, beening Coulton in both the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot and the Comet Chase (2m 3f) there. Strictly at the weights, the form should be confirmed, but Coulton looked bester as the season progressed and won both at Chelerichtam (Catheart) and Aintree (Martell Handicap Chase). His defeat under 12st in a race like the Mackeson can be forgiven, despite the inteal disappointment, and be had been impressive at Wincanton previously. He made all there, but I doubt either him or Martha's Son him taking on the slick-jumping Travado for the lead, although Nick Henderson's gelding might by a "walting-in-front" game. Yawado won this two seasons ago and exembally went on to run Winnig Ragship to a peck in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. He has had two unhappy excursions in the King George at Kempton, failing at the 13th both times, but this ting is more suitable in any case and if he jumps at his superb best he has every charice in receipt of 4th from the other pair, Doublands Express is the number one in terms of para-money won, but is 13 rising 14 and his dependable jumping will surely not be enough in this league. Selection: MARTHA'S SON

3.20 STRUTT & PARKER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,585

BETTROC: 5-2 Wanscha, 3-1 Chery's Led. 9-2 How's It Goln, 5-1 Alcove, 6-1 Pioto's Republic, 10-1 Kalzari, 12-1 others 1994: Kingsibil Pet 5 10 0 0 Skyrme 12-1 (M Hoyons) 9 mm

FORM GUIDE

CHENTL'S LAD is not the easiest hose to weigh up after last January's Wincarnon fall was followed two morths later by being pulled up at Cheltenham (2m 4h, but he looks weil-handicepped. He won two bumpers in Ireland and made 8 promising enough start for Nick Henderson when third to Mejor Summit at Kemption 8 year ago. He went on to take a little race at Taurton in fairly spectacular fashion, harting that, despite his amalitish stature, he would be paying his way in handicaps. This is a soft-looking race and he has apparently been working well. Washidle loves it here (four course and distance wins) but she has usually been fresher than will be the case today and the handicapper has more of a grip, too. Alcowe is a possibility, having been a winning 12-turking handicap horse for Richard Hannon last year. He has not achieved much over hundles yet, but gets in here with a recing weight.

Selection: CHERYL'S (AD)

[3.50	PETERBOROUGH EVENING TELEGRAPH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m Penaity Value £2,884
1	10-3P44	THE BLUE BOY (24) (D) (T M Morrs) P Bowen 7 12 D
2	FUPPUF-	BUCKSHOT (206) (B M Wooton) J Gifort 7 11 8
3	112141	FARRY PARK (14) (D) (Ms J M Ower) H Other 10 11 0
4	1112/01.5	VERY CHEERING (15) (Mss M E Rowland) Miss M Rowland 12 10 7

6436-62 SOLO GENT (11) (A A King) A Jones 6 11 5.

LINGFIELD HYPERION 12.10 Waft 12.40 No Speeches 1.10 Opera Buff 1.40 Petite Annie 2.15 Easy Choice 2.50 Heboob Alshemaal 3.25 Double Rush 3.55 Duke

021-121 SOLDEN MADJAMBO (149 (2) (I P Roberts-Handle) F Jorden 9 11 11. 233-732 LUCKY DOLLAR (10) (BF) (G P D Mine) K Sailey 7 11.5

GOING: Sundard. STALLS: Im outside, remainder inside...
DEAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 7f.
Eguitrack starface. Left-hand, sharp undulating coarse of 1.25 miles. Rus-in of 200yds...
Raccourse is south-east of town on B2028 Edenbridge road. field raliway station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. HISSION: Members \$12, Taitersalls \$8; Silver Ring \$4. CAR

PARK: Club \$3; remainder free.

VISOEED FUEST TIME: Waft (12.10).
WINDLES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Double Ensis (2.25),
Duke Valentino (3.55), Spiritre Bridge (3.26) all won at Ling-Duke Valentino (3,50), spirate and the Project (3,55) has been sent LONG-DISTANCS RUNNEES: Live Project (3,55) has been sent 270 raties by M Johnston from Riddleham, N Yorks; Ocean Stream (12.10), Colosse (1,10), Parabsend (2,50) & Pine Resence (3,25) have been sent 258 raties by J L Syre from Sutton Bank, N Yorks.

12.10 LIRA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,300 added 2YO 7f 8 SANZEMAF (USA) (82) 9 L.Moore 9 0 S Winboorth 5
445242 OCEAN STREAM (25) 7 L Eyrs 9 0. Deem Mickeows 7
SASSY STREET R JOHNSON Houghton 9 D. A MicGlosse 7
D AMTIGUAN JANE (24) R Arristonig 8 9 R Price 3 60 CARRIOCA (USA) (25) W Janes 8 9 5 Sandors 9 60 EIERMALLY GRAZEFIE. (29) Ms N Macaulay 8 9 ... J Quinn 8 60 FINTH ALONE (19) C Wall 8 8 ... Devilled 6 00 MACTIBLES INVESTIGUE (55) Mass 8 Sandors 8 9.

602300 POLY BY STAIRAN (LD) M Charmon 8 9 W Norman 29 4 100 SPENING MOUSE (LT) D Montey 8 9 R Cochrane 1.1 WAFT (USA) J Gosdan 8 9.... BETING 4-5 Walt, 4-1 Ocean Streem, 6-1 Secty Street, 8-1 Artigium June, 10-1 Cormens, 14-1 Bezzind, 16-1 others

1.40 LIRA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,300 added 270.71

12.40 PESEIA HARRAGE (C. £3,150 added 1m 2f PESETA HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I)

1.10 GUILDER HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m 4f 000 ERUCK COURT (33) R Johnson Houghon 3 7 12 42350 MISS PARIOES (50) P Clarke 8 7 11

--- 14 cociared BETERIC: 3-1 Loid, 4-1 Opera Bell, 3-1 Meetin, 8-1 Jan, Fostini Gold, 101 H'Ani, 12-1 Anjon, 14-1 others

A case can be made for each of the three "big gurs" but the vote goes to MARTHA'S SON, who had a run under his belt when winning this test year, but is said to be in great shape. He overcame a final-fance biunder in winning this test time, but runner-up Deep Sensation obviously had a migray difficult task conceding 9th. Deep Sensation obviously had a migray difficult task conceding 9th. Deep Sensation of sorts when depriving Martha's Son of second place behind Viking Flagship in the Mumm Metting 1994: Jumberu 9 11 11 P Hide 6-4 (J Giflord) 8 an D INOR'S DEED (15) C Wal 9 O. 10 D UOM (176) C Britan 8 9 _______ J Quinn 4
- 10 declared BETTIPRE: 5-2 Autababbta, 9-2 Petto Acaia, 8-1 hor's Dead, Queens Fancy, Naked Expertor, Richare Rougs, Uost, 12-1 others

2.15 MARK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3YO 1m

244000 HORS RONS DOLLAR (11) S Peace SO ... Down McKeews 3 = 12 declared = SETTRIC: 2-1 Ency Choice, 3-1 Mr Hodiey, 5-1 Hong Kong Dollar, 6-1 Ten-yer, 10-1 Astrojoy, Kelhare Giri, 12-1 others

2.50 FRANC CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) 205254 BENEVET GILL (C) (C) R ASTISTORIL 4 9 12. 122524 PRINCE DANZIG (XXI) (CD) O Murray Smith 49 12.

13100 EL ATREMIDO (FR) (193) (XXI) N Violer 5 9 S...J Stack (3) 8

550044 DEE-LADY (42) W Turner 38 8 ... Lady, 7-1 Spercockwek, 10-1 For About, 14-1 others 3.25 PESETA HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II) 423002 HANNU STORM (FIR (7) 60 D ffench Days, 7 9 11 344005 JUST-MANIA-MOU (\$11) G Loves 3 9 5 _____ A Whaten (5) 7 063021 DOUBLE RUSH (7) (\$10) T Mids 3 9 5 (Sex) ____ R Fallon 8 461031 SPEFFIRE BRIDGE (7) (\$10) M McConnack 3 9 4 (Sex) ____ R Cochano 2

– 12 declared – BETTHKE: 4-1 Spittire Bridge, 5-1 Double Rush, 6-1 Wahem, Hawall Storm, Pine Essence, 7-1 Never So Rite, 8-1 Just Many-Mos, 12-1 others

3.55 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £4,400 added 7f 21A201 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS (FR) (S1) (C) (D) R O'Sulvan 7 9 9....

000204 UNE PROJECT (7) (D) M Johnson 3 9 7 ... 332340 WHITEVER'S INDIT (52) (CD) N Usher 8 9 7... 2-02103 PERFECT BRAVE (11) 0 Esworth 4 9 4 A Procley (5) 10

BETING: 5-1 Duko Valentino, 6-1 Crystal Heights, 7-1 Perfect Brove, 8-1 Eagle Day, 10-1 Canary Falcon, 12-1 Auzio, Live Project, 14-1 others

CHELTENHAM

12.45 Wisley Wonder 1.20 Preenka Girl

2.25 Zajira 3.00 BANKROLL (nap) 3.35 Putty Road

GOENG: Good (good to firm in places). Left-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in of 240yd. m ten-mant, gautoping course was surferices. Opinit furth of 24030.

Becomese is 1m north of town off A435. Bas link from Cheltenham Bulway Station (served by Bristol, Berningham and London, Paddington) which is 3m away. ADMISSION: Clab & Tattersalls \$12 (juniors, 16-24 years, \$8); Poster's Enclosure \$5.

1.55 Nahthen Lad

E LEADING TRAINERS: II Nicholson — 35 winners from 102 runners gives a stocess vano of 21.5% and a profit in a 51 level stake of \$11.80; M Pipe — 53 winners, 554 runners, 13.6%, -\$186.19; N Twiston-Davies — 31 winners, 105 runners, 15.3%, +\$7.73; E Belley — 21 winners, 85 runners, 25.0%, -\$2.50.

E LEADING JOCKETS: E Duravoody — (24 winners, 213 rules, 18.7%, +\$7.33; A Magnitor — 26 winners, 182 rides, 14.3%, -\$52.84; J Guborne — 23 winners, 155 rides, 14.5%, -\$52.3; N WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN HAYS: None.

LONG DESTANCE ETHNERS: Street Stake (3.00) has been used 187 rules by the last seven that the last seven hays: None.

WINDERS IN LIGHT METERS SILVER SILER (3.00) has been sent 187 miles by M W Easterby from Sheriff Hugion, N Yorks; Mr Mast (3.00) has been sent 151 miles by O M Grissell from Brightling Park, E Sussex.

12.45 BEHRENS NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £3,485

BETTENG: 6-4 Wishy Wonder, 9-4 Species, 3-1 Brogoen Lady, 6-1 Stey Smity, 33-1 The Cover (Ryer. 1994: Berry's Boy 5 11 4 N Williamson 4 11 (K C Berley) 7 (8)

1.20 EVERYMAN THEATRE TOAD OF TOAD HALL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £4,788

FORM GUIDE

A homble race to access with SOUNDS STRONG possibly better than the other three but without a run for a year. Whether he is forward enough for the task remains to be seen but he looked a fair sort on his first run for David Nacholson at Haydock a year ago when just taking to get hold of Perry Thrower over two-and-e-helf rm's. He his as the today and this hish points wenner will not be unduly bothered by the livery ground being a son of Strong Gale. Not too many winners are tried in binkers on their next start but that is the case with Beethon. He has not beatter much and was thrashed by Spanish Light at Haydock but he at least stops so the others will have to be fit to beat him. Presente Gail returns from a two-month rest after picking up easy money at the galfs. No more than a platter over hurdles, she has it to prove over these stiff tences and over the longer top. Altaster River is a winning pointer with bags of potential. He beat a bad horse in a match Altaster Ryon is a winning pointer with bags of potential. He beat a bad horse in a match at Newbury and feil at the first at Kempton so is something of an unknown but the feel-ing is he could turn out useful with his asture trainer picking such a venue as this.

1.55 OLYMPIC CHALLENGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,827

		_ ,,,,,,	
1	311606-	NAMED HEN LAD (236) (D) (J Shew) N. J Pitmen 6 11 10	W Morston
2		LANDED GENTRY (USA) (7) OK W Bell & Son Ltd) C Broad 8 11 7.	
3		VERTIVEL (17) (Dowd S Leves) Mrs L Murphy 4 11 5	
4	501/P-4	NORTHERN VILLAGE (B) (D) (Airs Heather Chalde) 5 Dow 8 11 4	A Dickum
5	54UP2U-	WRECKLESS MAN (183) (Mrs Arms-Mane Darmell) J Old 8 10 0	I Gradium
		- 6 declared -	
	فتحرر وحروماه	Or 10-4 Tem handless unlike Historian like Ort 5h	

Mammin Weight, Dust, International Weight, Whiches Said SSI 30.

BETTHIS: 2-1 Northern Villege, 5-2 Verynel, 11-4 Nahthen Lad, 5-1 Lamied Gentry, 12-1 Wreck-1994: Aytton Castle 7 10 9 R Dunwoody 100-30 (R Dickey 9 ran

2.25 NISSAN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,388 572POP- BEAUREPARKE (257) (Pel-mell Panners) R Alner 7 to 8 ...

Minimum weight: 10st, True harten: 2. weights: Blessed Oliver 9st 12th, Frienge Blou 9st 5th, BETTING: 3-1 Zujim, 7-2 Poiden + ivie, 9-2 Titum Empress, Cyrill Henry, 5-1 Fixturessecrebary, 7 1 Bloosed Oliver, 14-1 others.

FORM GUIDE

This cannot be a hard race to win and the point of note is the smooth first-time-up suc cess of FIXTURIES SECRETARY last season. He would not be the first Devid Nicholeon-trained horse to win on his chasing debut in handicap company and the stouty-bred galding looks made for the pob. He may have won only a wisok race at Towcester in January but his placed efforts at Newcastle (tind to Forbidden Time) and Doncester (second to Go Ballistic) were in decret affairs. Zajira is surely beatable with 12st after coming a crop-per at Wincardon following a Fontwell win from Time Enough. This mare came but a nech behind Polden Pride in a dog-fight at Hereford last morah and a pound pull would suggest a close thing today. Polden Pride has since been up against it at the weights at Ex gest a close thing today. Poliden Pride has since been up against it of the weights at Eveter and Wincarnton and his winning run from Docs Dilemme on the course in September gives him an adventage over this weblash opposition. Oprill Henry made jumping instales at Plumpton last time when beating Driving Force and he was only a plater over hundles. There is some hope for Tittain Empress, especially if the ground changes the won only small races over hundles last term but her chase non over an inadequate trip at Market Rasen 1D days ago will have put her straight for this task. Beautropaine is bred for this chasing game and would not be a surprise winner on his reappearance, while Ludlow hundle within Blassed Officer looked a non-stayer here last time and his local travier has the gelding in his first chase with a feather weight.

3.00 LANSDOWN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000added 3m 1f Penaity Value £6,808 21121-U UNHOLY ALLIANCE (38) (D) (Min Sharon C Nelson) K Builey 8 12 D. 121/104- NR MATE (278) (Mrs Frie Bouches) D Gressell 7 to 8 1P3-11F BANKROLL (14) (D) (EF) (an 6 Steers) P Holibs 8 10 4

BETTING: 5-2 Dextra Dove, 7-2 Unitely Alliance, 5-1 Silver Silch, Bankroll, 6-1 Arthur's Minstral No Mott, 7-1 Tog of Peace. 1994: Warner For Winners 8 10 3 N Williamson 5-1 (P J Hobbs) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUNDE

ARTHUR'S MINISTREE, Arthur Stephenson's texoume when trained at Bishop Aucidand, was just a shade below-par with Dawd Nicholson last season but be stays extra wall, has a recent run under his belt so might just start to pick up again in a race that looks made for him. The trip Carr 71 on his reappearance at Woreester would have been on the sharp side for him and K was no surprise he was slaying on strongly at the death behind Act Of Parliament and Coleonry Boy. This is more his mark and lest season's game win from Clyde Ranger at Wetherby, plus a second to Lucky Lane at Utiowards, showed that a real starmina test was wanted. Bamicroll lines up after a fall at Luciow, He has a chance with his peace on the ground and has a feather weight but he is got to jump the course and may stay in this better race after Station and Wincarnton, Deutina Down has also to prove he is a stayer. He beat a horse (Southot) who finished lame at Sandown last time (2m) but he is in fine form so must rate a threat if he stays. Databoty Allianace is a really constitut soft who has been rested since his Kempton mishap. He will be given every chance here by Grahem Bradley but the 12st may just beet him. Silver Stick ran well on his reappearance against Wheat Fettle and is in a weaker race after a good fourth to Whispening Steel under Richard Durwoody on this course last season.

3.35 NEWENT HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 24 110yds Penalty Value £6,710 141113- PUTTY ROAD (228) (C) (D) (Lady Herns) D Micholson 5 11 7 W Microson P160-UD CHESP'S SONG (10) (CD) (Mic Anne Dewne) S Dow 5 11 4 D Bridgewiter 422-123. STRANSESRY ANGEL (24) (D) (Mic W M Jeffords It) F Bruce Miller 4 11 2. Blythe Miller 533-04 BACAGAMMON (11) (W E Sard J Od 4 10 12 T Grantham

 4 doclared SETTING: 4-5 Polity Road, 3-1 Stranberry Augst, 4-1 Backgammon, 5-1 Chief's Song.
 1994: Reissel 5 11 8 A Magare 4-9 (D Nicholson) 4 Ian FORM CLIDE

If the ground stays fast Putty Road is going to find it hard work keeping tabs onSTRAM-BERRY ANGEL over this extended two miles, Assessing Strawberry Angel's form against Patty Road is impossible but the fifty is a full-sister to Lonesome Giory, who was ignored at the punters' cost on this course three years when Blythe Miller got him up on the line to ply All Mutahm at 20-1. There will be no fancy prices about Strawberry Angel lodey after a win in New Jersey just over three weeks ago. The whole Miller family are mad keen on our racing. Bythe's brother Chip sampling the delights of Worcester when winning on Storm North a fornight ago.— and Strawberry Angel and Lonesome Giory are poised to resume their careers under the guitance of Charlis Brooks. Putty Road is not in his ideal race.— he was due to lick off over two-and-a-half against Large Action at Associated week. Assuming Strawberry Angel is full of pace and suited by the ground, the soft ground lowing Festival winner Putty Road has plenty to overcome at this distance. Chilef's Song is better than his latest handicap run suggests. He trotted up from Malaia here a year ago and went on to make all at Ascot to beat Siker Groom. With the ground and trip just about right he is not a forlow hope and looks easily better than the disappointing Bedgammon.

CATTERICK 12.40: 1 STAR RAGE (A S Smith) 5-1; 12.40: 1. STAR RAGE # S STRING 9-1.
2. Känemartyra Girl 25-1; 3. M-I-Five 8-1.
21 ran. 4-1 fav Nonos (4th). 5, 3. (I L Harts, Melton Mowbray). Tota: £4.90; £1.60, £5.00, £2.00. Dual Forecast: £87.30. Computer Straight Forecast: £116.01. Thio: 189.30. After an objection by the clark of the scales, Lesleys Angel, who finished fourth, was disquartifed for taking to weigh-in.

1_10: 1, ANDROS GALE (P Carbany) 100-30; 2. Finet Boot 5-1; 3. Gerrymander 10-1. 11 rag. 9-4 fav Emral Miss (5th). Nk, 20. U H Johnson, Crook). Totac £2.80; £1.40, £1.90, £2.50. Dual Forecast £14.00. CSF: 220.82. Trio: £29.00. NRs: Corston Ram-bo, Deep Call.

1.40: 1 SEVERDALE FOX (SW)rne) 10-

2-1 fav. 8 ran. 6, ½, (K Hogg. Isle of Mart). Total: £17.20; £3.60, £3.60, £1.90. DF: £69.90. CSF: £81.43. Tricast: £207.61. 2.10: 1. THE MENISTER (A Dobbin) 7-2; 2. Most Be Magical 11-2; 3. Allimac North 2. Must be Magical 11-2; 3. Allimac Nools 15-8 tav. 8 sps. 3, 21/2. (R Champlon, Now-mentet). Yothe: £3.00; £1.80, £3.60. DF. £7.00, CSF; £19.72. 2.40; 1. MASTER OF THE ROCK (£ Hus-

2.40: 1. MASTER OF THE ROCK (E. Hab-bard) 8-13 tay; 2. Exampler 3-1; 3. Kentl-worth Lad 4-1, 3 ran. 20, 2/4, U Mackle, Crurch Broughton), Total £1.40. DP. £1.60, CSF: £2.48, NR: Amblestic Havest.

3.10: 1, PERUMAN GALE (R GLESI) 12-3,200 L. Presuvent texts (R GES) 12-1: 2. Westwell Boy 14-1; 3. Twin States 7-1. 7 ran. 15-8 fav Humcare Blake (4th). 2. 14. (Mrs S Smith, Bingley). Tota: £11.00; £3.20, £2.70. DF: £52.40. CSF: £121.84. 3.40: 1. DIRECT ROUTE (MrCBorner) 11-

8 far; 2. Silvendale Lnd 7-2; 3. Legal Lord 11-4. 6 ram. 24/2, 20. (J H Johnson, Crook). Tota: £2,40; £1,10, £2,30. DF; £4,80. CSF; 26.71. Quadrot: Not won. Pleaspot: £2,029.40. Place &: £539.39. Place &: £1,990.46. FOLKESTONE

1.00: 1. HI HEDLEY (K Gaule) 12-1; 2. 1.30: 1. ENVOPAKLEADA (Peter Hobbs) 1. Str. 1. ENVOYMILEAM (PER PRODE) 25.1; 2. Grey Finch 9-2; 3. Gene Dilezana 33-1. 8 ran. 11-8 fav Pilgirm's Masion (6th), Nr. 5. (0 Gressil, Robertsburge), Tobe: £25.40; £2.90, £1.10, £7.00. DF. £35.60. CSF: £129.83. After e stewards' impuly, the first and second placings were reversed.

RACING RESULTS 2.00: 1. VIGOSA (P Corey) 11-8 far; 2. Dente's Deligist 40-1; 3. Days Of Thunder 9-4, 7 rae. Snt-hd, 8. (R After, Blandford Forum). Total: £2.00; £1.40, £5.40. DF: £22,20, CSF: £34,55. 2.30; 1. PETTAUCH (K Gaule) 11-4; 2.

Dunalir 5-1; 3. Woodlands Boy 9-1. 9 rast. 5-2 for Flamswood. 7, 34a. (G hubbard, Wood-bridge). Totas £3.70; £2.30, £2.10, £2.00. 0F; £18.00. CSF: £17.96. Tricest: £106.64: 3.00: 1. COLUMCILLE (Mr P Henley) 4-1;

2. January 0'Dee 9 4 lav; 3. Bronz Rose 33-1. B ran. 1, 10. (R Alner, Blandford Forum). Tota: £5.40; £2.20, £2.00. DF: £7.40. CSF: £12.79. NR: Iffice. After a stewards inquiry. 3,30: 1, HENRIETTA HOWARD (I FTitjey) 4-5 far; 2. Supreme Kellycarra 6-4; 3. Mac-

med 5-1. 5 rms. 7, 5. (Mrs II Harna, Neu-market). Tota: £2.00; £1.30, £1.80. DF: £3.00. CSF: £2.78. Place 5: £46.50. Place 6: £60.38.

SOUTHWELL 12,30: 1. SALJANDO (R Cochrane) 10-1; 2. Dr Caligari 4-1, far; 3. Presentil Reply 20-1. 15 ras. 2/2, 3. (Pet Mitchell), Tota: £9-90; £2.80, £1.70, £24.60. Dual Forecast: £35.20. CSF: £50-28. NR: Longionien. Too

. 12.55: 1. PEGGY SPENCER (Deen McX-22.00: 2. PERMY SYENGER (DBM MOC-cown) 5-1 fbr, 2. Flaba 20-1; 3. Another Batchworth 11-2: 4. Leading Princess 13-2. 16 ram. 3, 3. (C Thomfort). Tota: £5.40; £1.90, £4.50, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £85.00. GSF: £101.17. Incast: £547.32. Inc: £224.10. 1.20; 1. KINGS HARMONV (R Cochrane) 7-2; 2. Agont 4-1; 3. Ballysnoney 3-1 tav, 15 ran. 44, 42. (P Malen). Tota: £3.90; £1.50, £2.00, £1.50. DF: £7.60. CSP. £19.44. Trick £8.90. NR: Kingdom Princess.

1.50: 1. JALMAID (G Carter) 13-2; 2. Ludy Nesh 14-1; 3. Lady SBk 9-2 fev, 16 rae. 1¼, ½, (8 McMahon). Tote: £8.30; £1.90, £3.40, £2.30. DF: £60.80. CSF: £96.49. Tric: £281.60. 2.20: 1. ROMAN GOLD (R Perham) 13-R

tav, 2. Quality 5-1; 3. Los Akanos 20-1, 6 ran. 3, 34/2. [R Hannon]. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £2.50, £4.20. DF: £5.40. CSF: £10.47. Ineast: £112.55, Trio: £32.00. 2,50: 1.1A BRIEF (G Bardwell) 3-1 pt-tax;

Computer Straight Forecast: £26.49. Tricast: £58.37. Tric: £38.20.

3.20: 1. JEMBAR PUDDLEDUCK (R Proct 8-1; 2. Buckley Boys 5-1; 3. Magnestion 20-1. 14 ran. 3-1 fav Cast The Line, 5, 1¼. (D Arbushnot). Teles: 56,70; £2.20, £2.10, £10,60. DF: £19.50. CSF: £51.05. This 3.50: 1. MY CHERRYWELL OF

20-1; 2. Inclinitiza 16-1; 3. Newington Betts 10-1, 14 ran. 3-1 fav Blue Sioux. 3¹/₂. Bettis 10-1. 14 am. 3-1 fav Blue Stor. 34, 14. (L. Upd. James). Tole: £33.40; £7.40, £5.50, £3.20. DF: £88.10. CSF: £266.30. Ticast: £2,658.96. Time: £1,090.50. MRs: Graceful Lady, Nadwely withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 deduction on all bets, 5p in £. Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £1,845.36 carried forward to Lingfield temorrow. Quadquet: £24.10. Place 6: £56.66.



YOUTH POLICY: As transfer fees rocket and the pressure mounts on scouts to uncover the multi-million pound talent of tomorrow, many smaller clubs are facing greater competition than ever. Guy Hodgson reports

Hidden world of the teenage football market

t was the autumn of 1958 and the rebuilding of Manches-ter United began with the record transfer fee of £45,000 for Alhert Quixall. The Sheffield Wednesday general manager, the late Eric Taylor, received the cash and then told reporters in private: "The real price was £25,000. The other £20,000 was for Mark Jones and David Pegg."

Both players had died at Munich, but sympathy had not extended to forgiveness at Hillsborough, where resentment ran openly and deep. Jones and and Pegg had been Yorkshire schoolboys who Wednesday had anticipated signing. Something amiss, they believed, could only have tempted them to Old Trafford.

Firty years on and similar bitterness seeps through the game. Manchester United's youth policy does not have the stranglehold it had when the club needed to buy only one player between 1951 and 1958 but it is the envy of every club in England. The question is: are they getting the pick of the crop fairly?

Last week they were charged with illegally poaching David Brown from Oldham Athletic, a second case involving a 16-year-old following a hearing into their acquisition of Matthew Wicks two months ago. Brown had been with Oldham for five years; Wicks, an England schoolboy international, had been with Arsenal since the

penalty will be punitive. The FA has almost unlimited powers to punish clubs, hut a hefty fine and an order to pay compensation seems the most likely outcome, although the latter would be nowhere near the £750,000 which Arsenal are al-

leged to have demanded. United vigorously deay anything untoward, hut nevertheless their activities in the amhiguous world of encouraging promising boys to pledge themselves will be investigated in an unprecedented way in modern times. "There have been rumours about clubs for years," a spokesman at the FA said, "but there has never been

problem and in a world without substance rumours gain a cre-



Young hopefuls: The pick of Manchester's youth on show at United's training ground, the Cliffe, as the Old Trainford aspirants take on their City peers

dence, particularly as emphasis on schoolboy football has been intensified because of rocketing transfer fees at senior leve and the FA's new rules. Now clubs can sign boys as young as nine for their schools of excellence; until two years ago clubs were not allowed to have any link with a boy until he was 14.

That was the theory, just as

it is theoretically illegal to give inducements to parents. But that has always gone on and, as the age limit has plummeted, so the potential re-wards have escalated. Liam Brady's mother was offered a washing machine for her son's signature - not by Arsenal, it should be added - while other parents have allegedly been offered new cars or money thinly disguised as a fee "for a bit of scouting".

tions compared to the rewards Proof has always been the available today from a child's exceptional ability as a foothaller. In Manchester the

parents of a gifted eight-year-old by the name of Kane Jackson allege they were offered £50,000 for their son to join a club's school of excellence. They turned it down, although it did not stop them hiring the football agent Eric Hall for a short spell, which led in turn to Kane displaying his skills to a 20,000 crowd in Dubai.

One First Division scout said he knew that clubs used inducements to tempt promising boys away. "Put it this way," he said. "When you play the really big teams the temptation is to rest your better players. The last thing you need is letting them know you've got a 12-year-old who could be the next George Best. You do and he'll be out of the door. The parents don't help. I

had the father of one 14-year-old come up to me and Those are minor temptaask how much we would give him for the boy to sign. We'd. spent five years developing that boy. So much for loyalty."

The scout did not want his. of £5m are become words attributed, typical of the wall of whispers. Howard Kendall, as distinguished a was the same. "One club, I - to be enmeshed in a complex

won't name them, offered my weh. father money for me to sign but The simplicity of the rules it didn't do them any good. He hides a riddle of possibilities. The simplicity of the rules

The last thing you need is letting big clubs know you've got a 12-year-old who could be the next George Best. You do and he'll be out of the door'

hlacklisted them. His attitude was that he and I couldn't be

If the pressures to get hudding talent were intense enough for clubs to bend the rules when Kendall was a boy and when transfer fees rarely. exceeded £100,000, they are infinitely more so now that fees boy or a traince."

"No club shall directly or indirectly approach any boy," Premier League regulations state, "who is registered as an · associate schoolboy with another club, with a view to inducing the boy to register with such first-mentioned ...club either as an associate school-

monplace. The United cases,

you suspect, are just two of

many and, no matter what the

verdict, other clubs are likely

legations last week, Alex Ferchib had not broken any rules. "We are quite happy to answer the charge," he said. "We have nothing at all to feel guilty. about. In fact we were probably third in line to speak to the boy. There were at least two clubs Wicks' father, Steve, the

former Lincoln City manager and QPR player, also rejects any suggestion that United broke the rules. "We are amazed at the allegations," he said after attending a seven-hour hearing into the case in September. "United behaved

One of the problems is that the world of youth football is gripped by rumours. Ryan Giggs, who had been playing for a youth team with close links to Manchester City when he decided to sign associate schoolboy forms with United eight slip through their fingers. Nick a huge gamble?

Talking about the Brown al- years ago, is a case in point. His name crops up in nearly every subject in Greater Manchester, yet there has never been any evidence of inducements and to many people it would appear: entirely natural for an exceptionally talented youngster in Manchester to choose United: ahead of City.

Moreover, Jimmy Frizzell, City's chief scout and former manager, says the Giggs case was simply an example of a great talent slipping through the net. "Everybody at Manchester" City gets hlamed for letting Ryan through our fingers," he could do. His father and our then chief scout, Ken Barnes, had shaken hands on him joinmg us but he hadn't signed anything and he had every right to change his mind. City did nothing wrong and neither did

Manchester United.

Barmby joined Tottenham when everyone expected him to go to Old Trafford and even when you sign players you don't always get it right. United had David Platt on their books. and released him because they thought he wasn't good

Frizzell feels the FA regula tions should be tightened to give clubs a tighter hold on their prodigies, but accepts that they are deliberately lax to prevent boys being tied before they are old enough to make a decision which, after all; could make or break their lives. There are no easy answers," he concedes.

"I can't even condemn parents who ask for inducements to sign," he continued. You're lucky if you get one boy in 10 who makes it to the first team. It's a hoge casualty rate and who can blame a father for wanting something in his son's piggy bank for taking what is

It is hard to find the next Mike Milligan, never mind Ryan Giggs

atlas and the regulations per-taining to schoolboys and football centres of excellence to appreciate Oldham Athletic's problems. Nine to 14-year-olds are not allowed to be affiliated with clubs more than an hour's drive away, which puts no fewer than eight Premiership clubs with-

in the compass of local talent. The M62 might have opened the Pennines, but for Oldham it brought Liverpool and Everton within range which, when you are already trying to compete with the attractions of Old Trafford and Maine Road, is just about the last thing you need. It is hard to find the next Mike Milligan in that context, never mind the

future Ryan Giggs. Which is precisely what the man who helped discover Milligan - twice transferred for a total of £1.8m has to do. Jim Cassell, Oldham's chief scout, heads 35 full and part-time staff trying

You need only to look at an youth that they will bloom A, B, reserve and first-team final in 1990. That team was better at Boundary Park and the First Division than the Premiership glamour at An-field or Elland Road.

"It's difficult," Cassell, who has been acting on Oldham's behalf for 20 years, conceded. "We're competing in a particularly tough neck of the woods. Spotting players like Ryan Giggs is the easy part, it's getting them to sign for you that is hard. And it's getting harder because everyone

now has a youth policy. Mention of Giggs gave rise to questions about Oldham's current dispute with Manchester United over David Brown, although Cassell would say nothing for fear he might prejudice the cluh's case. The irony is not lost on him that he entered the professional game at Old Trafford as a contemporary of George Best. "All I will say is that they didn't offer my mother a thing for me," he

Oldham run five sides for

between four and six matches a week. Even so he is depen-

dent on others. "Scouting is team work," he said. "Scott McNiven has broken through this year and I expect I'll get pats on the back for that, but my attention will have been drawn to him by a scout in that particular area. Then you try to sell the club to him.
"In fairness, we have attractions at Oldham too. We

have a reputation for putting young players in the first. team, so although we cannot offer the material rewards or the glamour of the big clubs we can honestly offer a. great opportunity of a career in the game. You have only to look at David Platt and Lee. Dixon to prove there is more than one route to get to the top. They were free transfers

Oldham's crowning achievements of recent times are their stay in the top division between 1991 and 1994, and their

squads, and Cassell watches created on the backs of the scouting network, Andy Barlow, Milligan and Nick Henry. rising from the youth programme, Paul Warhurst, Dennis Irwin and Earl Barrett being picked up for small change. "I don't think we'll ever hit such a rich seam of talent again," he said.

So what does he seek in a player?"With a boy you look for something he's not going to lose," he answered. "Blistering pace, for example, or a super left foot. At senior level I always think, 'Is he better than what you've got?' Of course, the bottom line with an experienced player is whether you can afford him.
"We have to sell to survive

and our philosophy is not to regret that, but to look at it as creating an opportunity for another boy. All we ask for is for fairness when it comes to attracting young footballers. The people who pay their money at Boundary Park have as much right as anybody else persuading the finwer of boys aged 12 to 16, on top of reaching the Littlewoods Cup to watch good footballers."

Forest the focus of attention

By the time Blackburn Rovers' seventh goal went in on Satur-day the chant of "there's naly one team in Europe" sounded hollow, even to its authors, the Nottingham Forest fans.

Technically, Rovers are still in Europe - they play Spartak Moscow in Russia tomorrow afternoon. Effectively, however, they are out. Qualification for the next stage of the Champions League is beyond them and England's European focus has switched to Forest.

They meet Olympique Lynnais at the City Ground tunight knowing that victory over the two legs will make them the first British team to qualify for the post-Christmas stage of the Uefa Cup in four

Despite Saturday's thrashing, the portents are good. English clubs have lost twice in 18 Anglo-French European ties and the continuing hegemony does appear to have a psychological effect on the French.

Glenn Moore on a severe French test facing Britain's only real hope in Europe

Lyon are 15th in the French league - not one of Europe's strongest - and do not field a cur-rent French international. This is only their second foray into Europe in 20 seasons, although they were Cup-Winners' Cup semi-finalists in 1964.

However, they beat Lazio home and away in the last round which, Frank Clark said, "was probably the result of the round. They looked short of confidence when I saw then - in a bottnm of the table goalless draw - but we have seen the videos of the Lazio games and they looked a

very different proposition. They are a typical French side. Very good technically and quite mobile. They are a better side than their league position

suggests."
Forest were regarded as for-tunate to beat another French club, Auxerre, in the last round

and Clark admitted: "I cannot imagine it will he as thugh as against Auxerre. We were stretched to the limit for 180

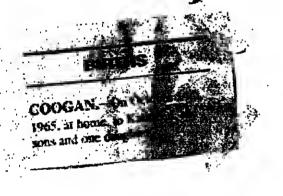
Mark Crossley's outstanding display then led to speculation that he might play for Scotland, for whom he is qualified through his grandmother. Cynics suggested that his performance nn Saturday proved his eligibility for the Scots he-yond dnubt, although Clark would prefer him not to.

"It makes it difficult for me with Uefa's foreigner limitations if he becomes Scottish," Clark said. He already has to juggle with Bryan Roy (Dutch), Andrea Silenzi (Italian), Alf Inge Haland (Norwegian), Scot Gemmill (Scottish) and David Phillips Wales), while the reserve goalkeeper, Tommy Wright, is from Northern Ireland.

Much depends on how Forest, and Crossley in particular, react to Saturday's mauling. That match was watched by Bernard Lacombe, once noted for scoring the fastest goal in a World Cup match (after 38 seconds against Italy during Argentina '78, it was eclipsed by Bryan Robson's against France four years later). Lacombe, now Lyon's director of football, wisely said his team "would not be reading too much into the result".

However, it is bound to be re-evant. If Forest react positively they ought to progress. Their success has been based on a wellorganized midfield who work hard when they do not have the ball and break quickly when

Roy will delay a cartilage op-eration to play, while his forward partner, Jason Lee, has a fitness test on a thigh mjury Both centre-backs are doubtful Colin Cooper with a suspected virus and Steve Chettle with a hack problem.



Coogan's Run. 9.30pm, this Friday, BBC2.

BBC2 is proud to announce the arrival of seven Steve Coogans. This Friday it's the turn of the salesman

from hell: Gareth Cheeseman.



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Havelange hit by Uefa proposals

Oritio

The heads of the sport's six regional confederation vesterday endorsed a series of reforms proposed by Uefa, the European governing body, which reduced the powers of João Havelange. the president of Fifa, and forced the world's governing body to share their World Cup revenue more evenly.

Havelange met the heads of Europe, Africa. Asia, Occania, North and Central America at Fifa headquarters in Zurich and agreed that they should have greater control of the sport in their own regions plus a bigger say in choosing Fifa's powerful standing committees.

But two of the most impor-tant proposals by Uefa - for the World Cup finals to be rotated among the confederations and for reform of Fifa's executive committee - were shelved.

What more can you ask for? I'm very happy," said the Ucfa president. Lennart Jobansson, who brought a longrunning power struggle into the open by pushing the reform

"We are happy with the result, but we do not look at ourselves as wioners. There are no winners or tosers every decision we took was unanimous."

Uefa published two strategy documents in July, dubbed Vision One and Vision Two. The first dealt with the power balance between Fifa and the funds. confederations, and the need for more democracy after 20 years of Havelange's rule.

The other proposal urged Fifa to adopt competitive marketing of the World Cup fioals and said the revenues should be shared out more evenly between Fifa, the confederations and 190 or so national

Uefa claimed that the 1994 States, one of the most successful sporting events ever held, produced only £12.26m in enues and believed it was pos-

sible to make four times that figure in 2002.

Fifa acknowledged that they should optimise, although not necessarily maximise. World Cup revenues and share the profits throughout the various levels of the sport.

Among the formal decisions made, which witt go forward to an executive committee meeting in Paris next month and then to the Fifa Congress in Zurich in July, were that new national associations would have to apply first to their respective confederations for recognition instead of to Fifa.

The confederations will have sole responsibility for player transfers in their regions and for organising all qualifying rounds of Fifa competitions, except for

the World Cup.
The meeting also created an entirely new "management hoard", which would fix the agenda for Fifa's executive committee. The board witt comprise the presidents of Fifa and the six confederations. Meanwhile, the Cameroon

foothall federation is in a turmoit which is threatening to keep the team out of international competitions. Officials said vesterday that an extraordinary congress of the football federation had failed to resolve the dispute which began when Cameroon's sports minister, Joseph Marie Bipoun, sacked the federation's executive in June, accusing it of had management of World Cup

That incurred the wrath of Fifa, who said the minister did not have the power to sack the executive, and Fifa has given the Cameroon authorities until 30 November to put their house morder or face exclusion from competitions, starting with the African Nations Cup finals in January.
Officials said the weekend

meeting never got round to ex-World Cup finals in the United amining the main points on the agenda, including the election of a new executive. The three days of talks got bogged down television and marketing rev- in who was eligible to stand for election.



Over the top: San Diego's Rodney Culver dives across a pile of bodies during the 30-27 defeat by Denver Broncos

Photograph: Karl Gehring/AP

Stewart caps Steelers' recovery

American football MATT TENCH

It has been an odds-defying sca-son, and when the half-time score from Riverfront Stadium was flashed across America's TV screens a nation of armchair punters could be forgiven for concluding that they had just found this week's shock. The Pittsburgh Steelers were trailing the Cincinnati Bengals 31-13, and another upset seemed there for

The biggest surprise was still to come though. The Steeler offense, which has frequently car-ried all the menace of a UN

mandate, did not so much slip into gear, as zoom into warp factor eight. Thirty-six unan-swered points later the Steelers had won 49-31.

Neil O'Donnell threw two touchdown passes and the much-criticised Bam Morris ran for three more in the final 22 minutes, but the name really to look out for in future is Kordell Stewart.

Stewart, an outstanding quarterback in college, plays back-up to O'Donnell and at wide receiver. He created a sensation when be threw a TD 10 days' ago against Cleveland, and on Sunday caught a 71-yard

Enumit Smith ran for 111 yards
and a hat-trick of TDs.

"Kordell Stewart gives them a different dimension on offence, he's tough to defeoce," the Cincionati head coach, Dave Shula, said.

Normal service was resumed by the Dallas Cowboys, after their error-riddeo defeat by the San Francisco 49ers last week, They travelled to Oakland to take on a Raider team widely regarded as being the closest to them in terms of overall talent. A 34-21 Cowboy victory put both teams' seasons in perspective: the Cowboys are still the best in the league, the Raiders still some way from matching their bravado

On Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, the Cowboys play host to the Kansas City Chiefs, whose 10-1 record is the best in the league. The Chiefs, who appear to play better without Joe Montana than with him, warmed up for their severest test with a victory at home to Houston that was a lot closer than it should have been. With the score 13-13 inside the final minute, the Chiefs seemed destined for their fourth overtime game of the season. But with 15 seconds left Mark Collins scooped up Todd McNair's

fumble for a late matchwinner. The annual Wayne Fontes jobsaving exercise is already under-

status has become almost as traditional as the Thanksgiving game, this time having his inse-curity made official. William Clay Ford, who awarded Fontes a new contract at the end of last season, said recently. "Take our roster and evaluate it. Put our team up against just about anybody else's personnel. We're pretty good. Three and six (the Lions' record

at the time] is pretty bad."
Five and six, the Lions' record after the defeat of the Chicago Bears, is a bit better but Fontes knows that unless the Lions make the play-offs this year he will attain the same status in way in Detroit, with the Lions Detroit as the Model T History.

Divisions earn the backing of Cotton

Rugby Union

The former England players Fran Cotton and Tony Jorden have uoited in condemning calls to end divisional fixtures against touring teams.
In probably the last season of

the CIS Divisional Championship, Cottoo, the North chairman, and Jorden, the London manager, want to retain the divisions for matches against international sides. Their stance has already

received the backing of the Rugby Football Unioo Commission, which came out in favour of maintaining the divisional games against touring teams.

Cortoo and Jorden described the pleas from the Leicester president. Peter Wheeler, and he Bath centre, Phit de Glanville, for a club-based fixture list against visiting countries as "born out of self-interest, not England's interest".

The Cottoo-Jorden statement said: "There are probably only two or three clubs in the couotry that could provide appropriate opposition." They claim matches against touring sides should "be testing grounds for potential internationals.

"loternational rugby is

played by representative teams, not club teams, and the only way to establish if a player can make the transition is to test him in a representative team," they added.

The former England prop and former England full-hack pointed out that playing club rugby "means playing in famil-iar surroundings". "Inter-national rugby is not like that," they added.

They also state that clubs have multi-national line-ups reducing the chance of English players facing stronger opposition. Cotton and Jorden also claim that England's stroogest clubs - Leicester, Bath, Wasps and Harlequins - would benefit from the inclusion of players from other clubs into an area

They believe Transvaal should be appearing against divisions rather than clubs on their current tour and point out that six International Board nations field representative teams against tourists. However, they are willing to compromise and suggest that the Courage League champions and Pilkington Cup winners could be granted a game against touring countries

Mike Rayer, who has started just two senior matches after being out for a year with a double break of his right teg, steps straight into European action at Stade André-Moga tonight when he lines up for Cardiff in their opening Heinekeo Cup Poot B match

against Bègles-Bordeaux. The Wales full-back faces the formidable French club after games against Abertillery and Fiji, plus a couple of matches as a replacement.

By opting for the 30-year-old Rayer's experience ahead of Chris John, the Welsh club champions field a side containing 14 full internationals - the Wales A prop Andrew Lewis is the odd man out in a side missing the injured Jonathan Davies.

Sigsworth heads Hull shortlist Henman into Newcastle grounded

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Pbil Sigsworth, the former Australian full-back, has emerged as a front-runner for the vacant coach's job at Hull. Sigsworth, the former Newtown, Manly and Canterbury player, who appeared for the Kangaroos in 1981, is in the country and is being interviewed for the position.

Although Stephen Ball, the Hull chief executive, said that Sigsworth's is one name on a shortlist of three or four candidates, he is regarded oo Humberside as the strong favourite to get the nod.

Others who have been mentiooed are two other Aus-tralians, Shauo McRae, a Rugby League, is to meet rep-resentatives of the clubs who

member of their World Cup coaching staff, and Darryl Van de Velde, the former Castleford coach, as well as the former Hull and New Zealand player, Gary Kemble.

"Those names are just specutation," said Ball, who may be able to announce an official decision later this week. Since retiring as a player,

Sigsworth has coached in the Metropolitan Cup competition in Sydney, taking charge of the Ryde-Eastwood club last season. Phil Windley, who had been coaching Hull this season while a full-time appointment was considered, resigned tast week.

Ken Arthurson, the executive chairman of the Australian

have declared their loyalty to the ARL to discuss a possible compromise with the breakaway Super League.

Arthurson has had meetings with News Limited, the instigators of Super League, and an agreement between the media barons Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer over television rights has been reached. ARL clubs, however, will inevitably argue against any deal that puts their future at risk.

Two of Arthurson's adversaries, John Ribot and Maurice Lindsay, the Super League chiefs in Australia and Britain respectively, are on their way to Los Angeles for a major meeting on the way ahead. Representatives from Britain's Super League clubs will arrive there by the weekend.

Neil Harmon of Leeds and Terry Matterson of the London Broncos will be free to take part in their clubs' Rega Trophy ties at the weekend after being found to have no case

games last week. London are expected to announce their permanent home in the capital at Charlton Athletic today, and remain keenly interested in Barrie-Jon Mather, despite Wigan's threat to take out an iojunction against any club that tries

to answer despite being placed

on report for incidents in

to sign him. Another Wigan World Cup player, Andrew Farrell, has been told that he will be out for up to six weeks and will need ao operation to clear up a groin

top 100 for first time

Tennis

Tim Henman, the British No 2, has broken into the top 100 in the world for the first time. He has climbed from 111 to 99 thanks to his victory in the ATP Challenger tournament in Reunion

It is just reward for a punishing schedule which also gave him a win in the ATP Challeoger in Seoul last month, victory over the British No 1 Greg Rusedski to give him the national title at Telford and a place in the semi-finals of the ATP Challenger in Beijing. Rusedski is at No 38 and Pete

Sampras finished as No 1 for the

third consecutive seasoo.

by high-flying Fife ice hockey his role in attack rather than defence. The tactical ploy

STEVE PINDER

The 4,000 fans who flocked to Newcastle Warriors' new home to see them take on Fife Flyers in the Premier Division were swiftly brought down to earth. A Mike Morrison goal and two from Chris Palmer made it

3-1 to Fife in the first period, effectively ending the contest. Despite the two sides matching each other in the next two periods, Fife won 6-4 to leave Newcastle at the bottom of the table. Top are Cardiff Devils, who

met Durham Wasps in a fourpointer. Cardiff were witbout the injured Ivan Matulik, and Mike Ware was called on to fill

ICE ROCKEY
BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division (Saturday):
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ice hockey

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Motor racing

proved a masterstroke as Cardiff emerged 7-3 winners. with Randy Smith netting a hat-trick. The Devils will also be grate-

ful to Slough Jets, who hroke their six-game tosing streak with two draws. Their best performance came against Fife where, with four minutes left, they were trailing 5-2. But four goats without reply gave them the lead and only Chris Palmer saved the Scots' blusbes. With two minutes remaining his goal secured a point.

Slough repeated the 6-6 scoretine against Wasps, this time Kip Noble's intervention preveoting Durham's defeat. again with two minutes teft.

Wasps and West Hertlepool have re-arranged their 4 November abandoned match for Saturday, 13 January. The match was halted as Wasps were lead-

match was haited as wasps were ing 24-16 with 12 minutes remaining.

ING 24-15 with 3.2 minutes retributing swaller cut POUNTH-ROUND DRAW. Variate v Carcin, Newport v Carephaly, Brigging of v Messing, Newport v Mortiley, Langing of v Newton Seasons v Mortiley, Langing of v Newford Abergroon v Newtonies (Langing of v Newford Newford v Newford of Vorse Rey, Borymae v Carmarther Quint, Lanharan v Blackwood, Petr de Lys v Messing Cette. Herdy v Pengyang, Countrige v Debatile, Landier v Semman, Hed V, Cyu Gynnead, Newton v Cardiger v Semman, Hed V, Cyu Gynnead, Newton v Card Incomine Colo Endow v Limiter, Ballin Media v Potos Procedure.

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5 K Angle Asmodt (Nor) 47.52; 6 S Vogester (Aui)

Rugby Union

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LEADOR WOMEN'S FINAL RANKINES: 1 S Graf (Sart, M Seles (LS): 2 C Mantrez (Sp): 3 A Senchez Vicarro 15(r): 4 K Dast- Lepani: 5 M Plens (Fr): 6 M Maleseu (Bult: 7 G Sabmuni Jugi; 8 M-1 Fer-nandez (LS): 8 i Hugoli (Chai: 15 A Huber (Ger): 13.1 / Newtonia (62 Rep): 12 L Dawropri (US).

Tenpin bowling

Gemma Burden, the 17-year-old Briton. became the youngest World Cup Cham-pion in the event's 31-year history when won the women's final in São Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday night. Top-seeded Bur-den achieved a hat-thick of strikes in the final frame to take the title after she had appeared destined for defeat against the American, Kendra Cameron.

Weightlifting

Chen Xaomin, of China, set a new world record in the 59kg category at the World Championships in Guang-hou, China yesterday when she lifted 12.3.5kg in the clean and jerk. It beat the previous mark of 123kg, set by China's Zou Fele.

STIMO

KYUSHU GRAND TOURNAMENT (Felicioles)
Netth day of 15: Delsriono (won 7. lost 2) bt inraino (2-7); Hermanoshima (4-5) bt Aggyaria (54); Kastgaffur (5-4) bt Tomonohana (3-6);
Kitaliachdoiri (4-5) bt Asenoshio (4-5); Asenoweia (4-5) bt Nonarhia (3-6); Kinshima (5-4) bt Heoroum (5-4); Ognohana (6-3); bt Asenbaria (6-3); Maugastio
(5-4) bt Ambelenu (4-7); Monacolaria (6-3); Maugastio
(5-4) bt Ambelenu (4-7); Monacolaria (5-4); Tetrohomala (5-4); Tetrohomala (5-6); Tetrohomala (5-6); Monacolaria (6-6); Tetrohomala (6-6); Monacolaria (6-7); Monacolaria (6-6); Tetrohomala (6-7); Monacolaria (6-7); Tetrohomala (7-2); Tetrohoma

64

The number of positive drug tests recorded this year by the International Weightlifting Federation, out of 1,031 lifters tested. It shows a steep increase on last year, when there were 17 positive tests

Beeston challenge for Hull Hockey

The draw for the fourth round of the Hockey Association Cup has been kind to the leading teams with seven of the eight First Divisioo sides who are playing lesser opposition being

drawn at bome. The exception is Hull who are at the foot of the First Division and have not played a home cup tie for five years. They are again drawn away and play Beeston who lead the Second Divisioo.

There are three all First Division ties, two of which are repeats of last weekend's league matches. Hourslow are at home to Havant. The teams met in the 1991 final which Hounslow won 3-2 but Havant's 4-1 victory on Saturday is likely to be more significant.

Cannock travel to Surbiton Gymkhana and Teddingtoo.

and Wimbledon against Slough and Gloucester City respectively enjoying home advantage. Norton's reward for disposing of First Division Bournville is a visit to Guildford, the Cup holders. Chichester, the other

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football (7.30 unless stated) LIEFA CUP TRIRD ROUND FIRST LEG

FA CUP FIRST ROUND REPLAYS Astrond v Bognor Regis (7.45) Brighton v Canvey Island (7.45) mouth (7,45)

Bristol City v Bournemouth (7.45) Enfield v Newport IoW Winglam v Wycombe (7.45) Button Utd v Kidderthinster ligan v Runcom (7.45) folding v Barnet (7.45) hexhom v Hull City FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Arsenzi v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45).... Middlesbrough v Tottenbum (7.45).....

ENOSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE msley v Ports

baving just beaten the Surrey side 3-0. The third clash is a London derby between Indian The six regional league sides have all drawn National League oppositioo with only Harborne

giant-killers who toppled Crostyx face Firebrands another Second Division side.

Huddersfield v Lakoester (7.45)... Oldham v Millwall (7.45)... Sheffield Utd v Grinsby (7.45)... Wastford v Luton (7.45)... West Brownich v Norwich (7.45)... GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

serove v Hednesford (7.45 Rugby Union FIVE NATIONS HEINEKEN CUP Pool 6 Bèges-Bordeaux v Carolfi (7.0). TOUR MATCH: Oxford Unit v Western Samoa

(3.01).
CLUB MATCHES: Blains v Aberavon (7.0);
Ebbw Vate v Swanssa Univ (7.0); Exeter v
Taunton (7.30); Glamongan Wanderers v
Canss Reys (7.0); Northampton v London Welsh

mational Select (at Llaneill, 7.0). Other sports RALLYING: Network Q RAC Raily third leg (Chester to Chester). SNOOKER: Royal Liver Assurance UK Cham-plonship (Preston); World Amateur Champ-lonship (Briston).

American football ARRESTICALE TOPOLOGISH

NEL Adante 31, St. touls 6; Caroline 27 Autoria
7; Detroit 24 Cheago 17; Pittiburgh 49 Chionnad 31; Grean Bay, 31 Cervland 20; Indenapolic 24 New England 10; Philadelphie 28 NY Olonia
19; Tampe Bey, 17 Jacksonwite 16; Sentité 27
Washington 20; Derwer 30 San Depp 27; Manesora 43 New Origens 24; Buffalo 28 NY Jets
26; Deltas 34 Opkland 21; Kansas City 20 Houston
13.

CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION 161 187 201 273 238

0 319 0 238 0 227 0 171 0 199 CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION 4 0 241 4 0 250 5 0 201 6 0 202 7 0 205

Basketball MBA: New York 98 Vancouver 93; Atlanta 108 Sacremento 94; LA Lakers 109 LA Clippers 88. Sacrement 34; In James 209 to Compare 56 BIDOWEISSE LEAGUE Browinghum 85 London Towers 98; Hernef Hernosteed 73 Thames Valley 83; Lercester City 94 Chester 84; New-nastie 78 Doncaster 86; Worthing 103 Man-chester 106.

1 .875 2 .800 2 .750 1
4 .556 2¹/₂
8 .200 6
7 .125 8
8 .111 6¹/₂ 3 .700 -4 .600 1 4 .600 1 4 .600 1 5 .444 2³7 6 .333 3²2 6 .333 3²2

WOMEN'S PRST TEST (Calculta, tinel day): Eng-land 209 for 5 dec 1/ Britin 84) and 28 for 2; India 31,5 for 6 dec (A Jain 110, 5 Dater 50noi. Football

Vinny Samways, the Everton midfield-er, has turned down the chance of a month's loan at Norwich to stay at Good-ison Park and fight for his place. The chalman of Real Madnd, Ramon Mendoza, yesterday confirmed he was resigning after more than 10 years in charge. Real Madnd won six league championships, two Spanish Cups and two Ueta Cups during 68-year-old Men-doza's rule but the club's persistent fi-

nancial problems put him under increasing pressure to leave. Two Dutch coaches have parted with their clubs after poor results. Issy ten Donkelaar resigned as trainer of FC Twente, only hours after the club lost 3-0 at home to NAC Breda on Sunday and Ronald Spelbos was sacked by esse Amhem, after only four months in the job. CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL Cup Real (Canalary) First legs Kaloum Stars (Gunea) CONFEDERATION OF APRICAN FOOTBALL Cap
filling (Chanledy First leg Richord Star) (Gunes)
O Erole Sahel (Tun) O. (Second leg: 2 Dec., Tunis).
FA CARL SEERIC VASE THEIR FOUND DEAles Virnearon Rengers v Plattor, Richall Olympic v Bedington Temens; Brigg Town v Gusborough or Chock;
Hebbum or Osucial Albon v Durbam Chy or Whittyy, Seafram Red Stor or Perence; Newtown v Beiger
Town; Pludhoc or Gooke v Durbam; Federation Servero Comment Land Month Ferdin v Excepted Hore
Co. 1997.

SPORTING DIGEST ley, Chaster 4e-Street or Whickham v tye Town; Easington Cotteey or Ossen Town v Anstey Nomasis; Bodinare St Michaels v Trafford: Bornett v Mose-ley, Muton or Consett v Seiby, Climeroe v Yorksher Amateurs or West Auckland Town; Tharmesmad v Brennood; Wilerhell v Legitron Town or Chatton St Peter, Whitstable Town v Peto-haein and Telecombe; Tobuy v Meelsy, Stade Green v Des Town; Northwood v Godeston; Whenhile v Eighear Town; Rounds Town or Hondridey African or Brackwell v Chopenham; Badport v Windoor and Eason; Lymagon v Order Row; Lauthon Town Campungon v Order (and House Parish Launt Lymagon v Chorle Row; Lauthon Rows; v Fairmouth Town; Tomngton v Chochester Cny, Hungsfrod v Mangonside United, Fair to be played on Salurday, 3 December 9, 3pm.

Golf

A Seniors Tour event is to be played in Turkey. Prize money of around £100,000 will be on offer in the Oger Tours Turkish Seniors Open at the Netional Golf Club in Antalya from 6-12 May. David Feherty, the Ryder Cup player, and his fellow Ulsterman, David Jones, designed the course. SHARK SHOOTOUT TOURNAMENT (Thousand Onles, Criff) Tilkin-hound scores (U8 tinless stated): 184 M Calcavectone and S Elwayan (Visit 184 C Strange and 195 C Strange and M O'Mear 69 67 58. 1397 F Joseph 20 C Strange and M O'Mear 69 67 58. 1397 F Joseph 20 C Strange and M O'Mear 69 67 58. 1397 F Joseph 20 C Strange and M O'Mear 69 67 58. 1397 F Joseph 20 C Mongomen (Gel) 13.50; 4 E Da 194 15.10; 5 M 195 C Pown (US) 12.54; 3 f Couples (US) 11.28; 3 S Divingen (Aus) 10.76; 15 S Tomance (GBI 8.10;

MOSEPTS OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNA-MENT (Cape Yours): South Africa 1 Canada 0; Netherlands 2 Chen 2. Standings: 1— Great ertain (73 Pts 5), Argentus 3-51; 8 Canada (4-11, 4); 4 Netherlands (4-8); 5 Korea 3-3; 8 China (3-3); 7 South Africa (4-3); 8 Canada (4-11,

(3-3); 7 South Africa (4-3); 8 Canada (4-1).
MASTRO AZZIRRO LEAGUE; American S Hondon 3; Brasined 2 Eactors 3; Cry O' Ordord; 2 Markow D; ETESSA O Neyes 2; Headingson 0 Harrow 3; OMT 0 Circuich, 2; Ramgaria 7 NPL 0; Richings Park 1 Milton Neynes 2; Staines 7 HCC 0; Sumbury 0 Mil Hill 1.
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP POURTH ROUND BRAW: Beesson v Hull, Caractury v Formby, East Coresear v Hampstead and Westmarster, Edyston v Hardes (Warwick), Frebrands v Chiclesia, Guldford v Norton, Harborne v Stough, Housslow v Handel, Hallon Gymthana v Soumpste, Old Lougitionaris v Cry of Porsmouth, Reading v Booleanis, Richmond v Otton and West Variands, Surbaton v Carnock, Teddangon v Bromley, Tropans v Doncester, Warbiston v Gloucester Cay, toes to be physod 3 December.

Mika Hakkinen, the Finnish Formula One driver seriously injured at the Australian Grand Prix 11 days ago, could be released from the Royal Adelaide Hospital this weekend. Hakkinen suffered severe concussion after losing control of the Add mental an estimated 25 of his McLaren at an estimated 1.25mph during qualifying in Adelaide. His con-dition was yesterday said to be steadi-

Netball ENGLISH COUNTIES LENGUE First Division lowshive 59 Bernungham 26; Herdindshim ser Met 77; Middlesen 58 Sum Gloucestershim 45 East Esse; 44,

Swimming CRAND PRIX SEETING (Loicetter, winners only):
Nort 100m freestyle: 1 A Chrycon (Leeds)
50.58ees. 50m breaststroker. 1 Parack (Leeds)
28.75. 200m modeler: 1 A Chrycon (Leeds)
2:04.65. Women: 100m freestyle: 1 S Robin
(Newastile) 56.59. 200m breaststroker: 1 J Fing
(Watham Forest) 2:29.78. 100m butterfly: 1 C
Foot (York 1:01.74.

TODAY'S NUMBER

out of 1,996.

'Apart from Kimberley, it has rained during every game so far, and for the last three and a third days England were not so much in need of the services of captain Atherton as captain Nemo'

MARTIN JOHNSON

on England's undercover operations

RAC RALLY: Scot hits a rock in a hard place but overcomes two punctures to close on Sainz

McRae resorts to risk strategy

Rallying DERICK ALLSOP reports from Chester

Colin McRae had tn revert tn type yesterday, casting off the cloak of composure to kick and fight his way back into con-tention for the World Rally Championship in the manner of some latter-day Braveheart.

The Scot's apparent com-mand of the Network Q RAC Rally became an heroic struggle against the odds after two punctures in the notorious Kielder threatened to sabotage his hopes. He effected emergency, not to say crude, repairs in his Subaru

and went on the charge again.
At the half way point, he had reduced a deficit of 1min 14 sec to 39 seconds behind the leader. his team-mate Carlns Sainz, the only man who stands between McRae and the distinction of becoming Britain's first

world rally champion. Misfortune in the Mitsubishi camp conveniently left the Subaru pair at the head of the field. The overnight leader, Tommi Makinen of Finland, was forced to retire after clipping a log on the day's first stage, damaging his suspension and subsequently breaking his transmission. Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson, in the other Mit-subishi, hit the rock which caused McRae's first puncture and slipped to third.

That opening stage revealed McRac's hand. The posturing of the Sunday show stages behind them, the 27-year-old advanced from third place to a lead of 27 seconds over Eriksson, 43 seconds over Sainz. And then they arrived in Kielder. A third of the way in to the world champ-ionship's longest stage, the 36.61 miles of Pundershaw, McRae rock. He said: "By the time we saw the rock it was far too late at the speed we were going, so 1 hit it and the tyre went soft very

quickly. Sainz also had his problems. He reached the end of the stage with severe overhealing. The stage wreaked havoc. Eriksson, too, lost two minutes after damaging the front offside of his car un that fiendish rock. Malcolm Wilson, the 39-yearold Cumbrian, rolled his Ford Escort into a ditch and had to concede it was the end of his ral-

No.2837. Tuesday 2t November

ACROSS

America adopis custom in

Account includes repair of

chair that's old (7) Magistrate has silly nit ar-

11 Rag scores as means of raising money for charity? (3,4)

13 A Glaswegian races to England? (5)

16 It'll cope with one full of

beans, making one prance 3

ase (3-6)

around (3-6)

Poor python gets nnthing to eat in storm (7)

One inhabiting South

food (5,7)

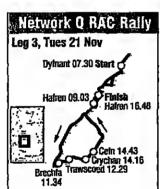
ly. Alister McRae rolled his Escort, but was able tn continue. His brother. Colin, resumed with defiant and unrivalled ace. Sainz reported his overheating problem had heen cured but was powerless to prevent McRae making up 11 seconds on the next stage, an-

other four on the one after. At Kershnpe, however, McRae encountered another test of his resolve. Seven miles from the end of the stage he had a second puncture, and damaged suspension and bodywork. He not only made it to the finish but still managed to take a further two seconds off Sainz's advantage. McRae resorted to hrute force and a log to make temporary repairs and then drove the 45 miles to the more orthodox service.

His Subaru duly tended, he revived his magnificent assault on the final two stages, at Grizedale, in the Lake District. McRae closed in by another 18 seconds, McRae said last night: "The problem to the suspension was not as had as it looked hut the punctures were much more trouble. I'm going as quick as 1 can to try to close up the massive lead Carlos had and I'm

happy I've closed some of it." Sainz said: "He's been lucky and taking a lot of risks. If he had damaged his suspension on a stage where another stage came straight after, he would have been out of the contest. I don't have any tactics for staying ahead, except driving as

quickly as I can.



19 Cupper seen on Spanish

duced in size (4-3)

thing (5)

a pillar (7)

river: that's an interesting

Observed navy, badly re-

Warker found squirrel's nest over on island (7)

Put on a pedestal that is

solid in construction (7)

Vehicles right in love and sacred in conflict (8,4)

Saying little, cast coin into

Going by tube you'd be unlikely to cross this? (7)

A decline in seating, it's

Church leader in one's very black books? (5)

French lake (7)

Bloke is ordered in make



Round the bend: the race leader Carlos Sainz steers through Pundershaw yesterday

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Run south with holiday-

Departed, we hear with odd load in boat (7) Francs as com would be

inappropriate here (3,9)

cide? (5,4)
Were any drunk at this celebracon? (3,4)
Condition for volume is

Company's board con-trolled Spanish city (7)

Stays nn electricity supply

Ascetic's just about king

10 Barrister unemployed since 1952? (5,7)

15 An alternative to vermi-

maker? (7)

nothing (7)

22

Brady leaves Brighton

GUY HODGSON

Six successive league defeats and mounting financial problems told on Liam Brady yesterday when he resigned as manager of Second Division Brighton 23 months after taking charge at the Goldstone Ground. The former Arsenal and Re-

public of Ireland midfield player announced his departure to shocked players at training yes terday morning, leaving a cluh fom in deht and who have sold their ground for development. Brady's assistant, Gerry Ryan, and coach, Jimmy Case,

will take charge of the team tonight for the FA Cup firstround replay with Canvey Is-land. Case is the favourite to take over, having been forced to retire as a player last week. Wolves' hopes of persuading Steve Bruce to become the

Harford, has dismissed talk of a £5m swap deal involving Chris Sutton and the Aston Villa de-

contract was up this summer," Bruce's manager, Alex Fergu-son, said, "we still wouldn't

consider releasing him."

Andy Pearce, a cult figure among Sheffield Wednesday

supporters, has made a £600,000

move to Wimbledon. He will

make his debut against Man-

chester City tomorrow night.

City's firmer manager Brian Horton lost a £300,000 claim for

damages when a Manchester court decided he was entitled

only in the difference between his current wage with Hudder-

sfield and his salary for the two

years that remained on his con-

tract when he was dismissed in

the summer. That figure, around £100,000, has been paid by City.

Blackburn's manager, Ray

chester United refused permisstill has a hig part to play for this cluh," he said. sion for them to speak to their 35-year-old captain. "Even if his

Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, has ordered his coaches to stop him running down the touchline when a goal is scored. "That's their priority and if they don't do it then I will fine them heavily," said Fry, whose team are facing repercussions from the brawl during last week's Anglo-Italian

Cup victory over Ancona.
The Italian team's trainer Massimo Cacciatori underwent surgery on a broken jaw yesterday and alleges he was set upon by Birmingham players and officials after the game.

Reading have transfer-listed their Welsh international winger Michael Meaker, Newcastle have appointed Steve Wicks as chief scout and Russell Osman's long-running dispute with Bristol City has ended with an out-of-court settlement over his

player-manager at Mnlineux Rangers and SFA set for conflict

Although John Rowbotham, also suggested John Brown and Alan McLaren of Rangers and Billy Dodds, the Aherdeen striker, be red-carded for a lat-

er incident involving all three. The supervisor suggested he was denied a clear view of the incident involving Gascoigne, but felt a red card would be appropriate because of the presence of intent. The report was considered yesterday by the disciplinary committee.

Rangers are unhappy at the thought that a referee supervisor can sit in judgement on play-ers on disciplinary matters rather than reporting on the actions of the referee. It is also thought the Ibrox club are unpervisor did not have a clear view of the Gascoigne incident. The findings of the disciplinary committee could involve all

the players mentioned making

appearances before the SFA.

The whole scenario migh have been different if the SFA allowed video evidence to be taken intn consideration. The hypocrisy of that situation, where television is watched by both supervisors and members of committees, could be about to end as the disciplinary committee have opened the door for the use of such evidence to be taken into

consideration in future.

Rowell joins the England pay-roll

HUGH BATESON

The most recent performance of their charges may have been distinctly amateurish, but now Jack Rowell and the rest of the England management team are to follow the players into the

The Rugby Football Union announced yesterday that Row-ell, his assistant coach, Les Cusworth, and the selector Mike Slemen would all be entitled to a share of the pay-out - expected to be in the region of £1.5m this season to the international squad, who made an unimpressive start to their campaign in Saturday's defeat by South Africa at Twickenham.

Rowell welcomed the principle behind the move, even though it is not about to cause a major change in his lifestyle. Money from rugby never interested me, and I even gave up my career at the start of the year to devote the necessary time to this job of manager," the former chief executive of Golden Wonder said. "But now that the players are being paid it would be anomalous if the men who were telling them what to do did not also receive something. Some of my colleagues were starting to become sensitive about it."

will not be revealed by the RFU.

The total outlay, including some money for the A team squad, is well over £1m, and approaches £1.5m.," Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said. "But we are not stating what each player is to earn. There will be a stiding scale. based on appearances, bench dnty and so on."

The squad will be called in for further training sessions on 28 November and 5 December in the build-up to the Western Samoa international at Twickenham on 16 December. And something of what awaits them can be gleaned from the frosty tone Rowell was still using about the game yesterday. were numerous errors, including knock-ons," he said. "The decision-making was bad and

the kick-offs were deplorable."

The RFU has also endorsed the principle that clubs should be allowed to issue conditional con-tracts to their players to come into force at the end of the sea-son. They will be activated if or more likely when - the union's special meeting in Birmingham on 14 January endorses the recent RFU commission's report advocating that the moratorium of payments and the 120-day qualification is scrapped at the end of April.

Cold stare of a

Sir John Hall, the new owner of Newcastle RFC, has been appointed the first chairman of The players are due to sign appointed the first chairman of their contracts shortly, although the precise amount each will earn Division clubs.

Warwickshire cut links with Lara

Cricket

Warwickshire's dream liaison with Brian Lara is over. They parted, apparently forever, yesterday when the county champions released the prolific West Indian batsman from his threeyear contract at Edgbaston.

The 26-year-old left-hander, who helped Warwickshire to an umprecedented treble in 1994, agreed the deal earlier this year schedule. The county reluctantly agreed, despite Allan Donald

chief executive, said the decision followed long talks with Lara. Amiss said: When he said hedidn't want to play in 1996, we could see his side of things. After two years of non-stop cricket, he couldn't face another season in England straight away. I think he understood our position for 1997 once Allan Donald had indicated that he would be available."

Dennis Amiss, Warwickshire's

In 1994, Lara helped War-wickshire to the Championship, but asked to be given next sum-mer off to rest after his hectic the Sunday League titles. Lara ended with 2,066 first-class runs
- including his world record taking a joh on their coaching 501 against Durham – averaging staff, and have been linked to an- 89.92. hut was replaced last other South African paceman, season by Donald, because he Shaun Pollock, for next season. was touring with the West Indies.

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Founders. Worth going the extra mile for.





DAVID MCKINNEY

Relations between the Scottish Fnotball Associatinn and Rangers, strained over the years, could be further damaged with the deliberations of the SFA disciplinary committee intn allegations of misconduct at last week's match between

Rangers and Aberdeen. the referee, took no action his supervisor indicated in his report that Paul Gascoigne should have been sent off for an alleged head-butt on John Inglis and he

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